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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-102
Wednesday
27 May 1992

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-102

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Mahathir on ASEAN Cooperation With Vietnam

BK2305132592 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 2

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Thurs—Malaysia has consistently followed a policy of reciprocal co-operation and it values peaceful relations with its neighbours towards regional political and economic stability, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said.

The Prime Minister said ASEAN countries and Vietnam have ushered in a new era of regional co-operation and economic participation.

In this context, the Vietnamese decision to acquiesce to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation on Southeast Asia was an important milestone, he said in his message in the Second International Symposium on Interaction for Progress—Modernisation of Vietnam and ASEAN Co-operation Souvenir Programme.

Dr. Mahathir said the last ASEAN summit established the guidelines for ASEAN'S co-operation with Vietnam and with the rest of Southeast Asia aimed at advancing regional integration.

If a significant contribution is to be made towards ASEAN-Vietnam relations, the implementation of these agreed guidelines are essential he said.

"This can be made possible through a continuing dialogue between representatives of public and private sectors form the ASEAN region and Vietnam, "he said.

Dr. Mahathir said that by sharing experiences, the symposium would provide further impetus to improved ASEAN-Vietnam relations.

In his message, Vo Van Kiet, Vietnam's chairman of the Council of Ministers, said the great and far-reaching changes in the region was reflected in the theme of the symposium.

It also reflected the desire and resolution of the Governments and peoples in Southeast Asia to forget the past and strive to build up the region into a zone of peace, friendship, co-operation and development.

This in turn provides nations the opportunity to jointly take part in dynamic and strong relations on the basis of mutual respect and benefit, he said.

SRV Minister Views EAEC, Nation's Problems

BK2305135192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 2

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Thurs.—Vietnam may face difficulties due to lack of expertise in its newly-forged cooperation with Malaysia but feels this can be overcome in a few years.

Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh said today the country lacked technical personnel to participate actively in the co-operation.

For example, he said many Vietnamese businessmen and officials lacked a working knowledge of Bahasa Malaysia and even English.

Nevertheless, he expects his people to be proficient in the languages in a few years time.

He was responding to questions from reporters on the difficulties Vietnam may face in its economic cooperation with Malaysia.

He had earlier delivered a keynote address at the opening of a three-day Second International Symposium on Interaction for Progress—Modernisation of Vietnam and ASEAN Co-operation at Holiday Villa in Subang Jaya.

When asked on his mission in Malaysia, Khanh said besides addressing the symposium, the next most important mission was to express Vietnam's friendship with the Government and people of Malaysia.

Talks with Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim had been "fruitful" although there was still much to be done for the co-operation, he said.

Earlier, in his address, Khanh said Vietnam was eager to absorb the valuable experience of Malaysia and other ASEAN countries in tackling the relationship between economic growth and cultural development, justice and social progess.

He said it was a "sound and healthy thinking" to strive for co-opeation, integration and linkage of competition for mutual development, non-confrontation and rejection of mutual elimination by force.

Impressed with the tremendous growth rate in the Asia-Pacific region, Khanh said the world economy was seeing a clear tendency for regional integration without enhancing protectionism or isolationism.

Referring to Malaysia's initiative to set up the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), he said Vietnam supported any form of regional economic co-operation that was positive, fair and mutually beneficial.

"Such co-operation could and should be diversified from bilateral to multilateral, piecemeal to comprehensive, sub-regional South East Asian to Asian Pacific as a whole," he said.

Despite Vietnam's willingness to participate in economic co-operation, Khanh admitted that his country was presently in a "lower position" than ASEAN countries and deserved attention when consideration is made on the mechanisms and forms of co-operation so that mutual benefit could be reasonably realised.

"Vietnam does not want to be nor can it become a burden to anyone engaged in economic relations."

SRV Official Views Ways To Achieve Security

BK2305173492 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 2

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Thurs—Regional security must embrace military, economic and political spheres, Vietnam Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Dy Nien said today.

He said regional security could only be achieved when the security of each country in the region was maintained.

"It can also be reached on the basis of proper and balanced relations between the region and the big powers as well as others outside the region," he added.

In his paper, Global Changes and Regional Security presented at the International Symposium on Interaction for Progress—Modernisation of Vietnam and ASEAN Cooperation, Nguyen said regional security in the realms of military would constitute a big step forward if all the countries could proclaim a reasonable defence policy, dismantle foreign military bases and commit themselves not to conduct any military manoeuvres that went beyond the defence framework.

"We should also keep each other informed of such activities. And our military efforts should be made to ensure that never again will Southeast Asia return to the previous eras dominated by confronting alliances."

"Thus, if there is concerted effort by everyone, a new pattern of international relations can be created in this region which is capable of maintaining durable peace and stability."

Economically, Nguyen said countries in this region should strive for mutually beneficial cooperation.

"Certain concrete measures and mechanisms are to be worked out to promote mutual understanding, confidence and interaction among the regional States for the future of 'one single Southeast Asia'," he added.

Vietnam on its part, he said, was committed to promoting all-round reforms for itself, especially on equal development of a multi-sector commodity economy.

On its foreign policy, he said, it was one geared towards independence, self-reliance and diversity as well as striving new friendships.

Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Rodolfo Severino Jr in his paper, Towards a Regional Consensus: On Regional Security, said the process and object of consensus-building in the region should focus on:

—The goal of a Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality for Southeast Asia. This has acquired greater relevance and the prospects of its realisation have considerably improved, and,

—The draft treaty on a Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone in Southeast Asia which an ASEAN group put together five years ago.

Severino Jr also said the atmosphere of confrontation within and around the region had largely dissipated and thus, it would be a good time to step up efforts in developing conflict-resolving and confidence-building measures.

ADB Head Forecasts 7% Growth in Asia in 1993

OW1905113292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Fukuoka, May 19 KYODO—Economic growth in Asia will reach 7 percent in 1993, outpacing the rest of the world, as economic conditions take a favorable turn by that year, Asian Development Bank [ADB] President Kimimasa Tarumizu said Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference here, Tarumizu pointed to the current positive economic performance in Asia despite the global recession.

The Manila-based bank has predicted the world economy will grow 1.8 percent in 1992 and 3 percent in 1993.

Looking back at this year's annual meeting of the ADB, convened in Hong Kong last month, Tarumizu said many participants told him that the gathering was "highly exciting," reflecting vigorous economic activity in the Asian region.

Tarumizu, the Japanese president of the multinational lending institution, also noted that trade in Asia has been expanding and this should be viewed as a business opportunity for Japanese firms.

Tarumizu is visiting here to give a lecture. The ADB provides funds for regional development and has a membership of more than 50 countries, including Japan and the United States, the largest capital contributors to the bank.

Japan

Reaction to Dunkel's Remarks on Uruguay Round

OW2605160992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Addressing a meeting in Switzerland on 25 May, GATT Director General Dunkel said: Even if farm talks between the EC and the United States make headway, it will be difficult to conclude the Uruguay Round this year.

In reaction, International Trade and Industry Minister Watanabe, speaking after a cabinet meeting this morning, told a news conference: I believe that Director General Dunkel said this in the hope of concluding negotiations one way or another this year. Whether farm talks scheduled between the EC and the United States on 27 May make headway is the focus of attention. I believe that Director General Dunkel said this in the hope of settling the negotiations, thus urging other nations to forge ahead with negotiations once the EC and the United States agree at the farm talks. Minister Watanabe thus reiterated his view that all nations participating in the Uruguay Round should work for an early settlement.

Meanwhile, at his own news conference this morning after the cabinet meeting, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Tanabu said: His remarks do not affect us. We will tenaciously present Japan's position to the world. The agriculture minister thus restated his posture of appealing to other nations to amend the draft agreement presented by Director General Dunkel, which includes opening agriculture markets through tariffication without exception, while closely watching progress in the EC-U.S. farm talks.

Miyazawa Scheduled To Meet Bush, Major in Jul

OW2705072192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will meet U.S. President George Bush on July 1 to talk about aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and measures to revitalize the global economy, government sources said Wednesday.

The sources said Miyazawa will leave for the United States on June 30 for a luncheon meeting with Bush the following day as part of his next overseas trip, which will also take him to London and Munich, site of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic summit.

After his meeting with Bush on July 1, the sources said, Miyazawa on July 3 will fly to London, where he will meet British Prime Minister John Major and attend a top-level meeting with leaders of the 12-nation European Community on July 4.

The Munich summit on July 6-8 brings together leaders of the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and Canada.

The sources said the G-7 leaders will meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Munich after the end of their annual economic summit on July 8.

Japanese and Russian officials are working on a July 8 meeting between Miyazawa and Yeltsin, they said.

The sources said Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito will travel to Washington around June 10 in preparation for Miyazawa's summit meeting with Bush and the Munich economic summit.

Saito plans to reconfirm Japan-U.S. policy coordination on such issues as Japan's campaign for the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, the sources said.

Russian Remarks on Troop Withdrawal Welcomed

OW2705060392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0542 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Japan welcomes a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman's confirmation of President Boris Yeltsin's stated intention to withdraw all troops from a group of disputed islands, a Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

But the source said Japan is still concerned over an earlier statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry, which said that a withdrawal of the estimated 7,000 troops is "still under consideration."

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told a press conference Tuesday that Yeltsin's remarks to Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in Moscow on May 4 take precedence over Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's remarks May 19 that Russia would not withdraw all its troops from the islands off Hokkaido.

Japanese officials said Grachev's remarks contradicted a pledge made by Yeltsin to Watanabe that all troops on the islands would be withdrawn, except for border guards, within one or two years as a step toward a resolution of the decades-old territorial issue.

Yeltsin told Watanabe that Moscow is ready to begin implementing the third stage of his five-stage plan to resolve the territorial dispute. The third stage is demilitarization of the islands.

The Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday issued a written statement saying a total withdrawal from the islands "is still under consideration."

It also said Yeltsin's remarks to Watanabe on the prospective troop pullout were merely a "prediction," rather than a "plan," an apparent indication that they did not constitute a pledge.

The statement further said Yeltsin's remarks were not made in the context of bilateral negotiations over the islands, which were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. Japan is demanding their return as a condition for a peace treaty.

"We may continue to raise this question in a broader context because we really want those troops out from our islands," the Foreign Ministry source said.

He added that Japan will seek to clarify the various statements made in connection with the issue and from time to time ask about the current state of the troop withdrawal.

Grachev, after being named by Yeltsin as Russia's new defense minister, told a gathering in Moscow that considering the geostrategic interests of the Russian Army, "Russian troops will not withdraw from the Kuril Islands claimed by Japan."

The source said the various conflicting statements could reflect internal confusion in the Russian Government and ignorance of recent developments in bilateral relations on the part of Grachev.

Japan has repeatedly called for a removal of the troops from the territories—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets. It refuses to give Russia economic assistance until it recognizes Japanese sovereignty over the islands.

Estonian Prime Minister Urges Investment

OW2605062192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0537 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi on Tuesday met Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and called for Japanese investment in the Baltic country, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Vahi arrived Sunday on a four-day visit to Japan, the first such official visit by an Estonian leader.

Outlining Estonia's merits as a target for Japanese investment, Vahi cited an educated and high-quality work force, a large airport and seaport, good air and maritime transport links with Scandinavia and Western Europe, and a well-developed communications infrastructure.

He said that so far there are some 1,600 joint venture enterprises set up with foreign capital in Estonia.

Miyazawa, responding to Vahi's remarks, said Estonia is right to try and attract foreign investment.

The Japanese leader suggested that instead of formulating grand projects and schemes, Estonia should concentrate on what it can realistically do at present, the officials said.

In particular, he advised fostering the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, they said.

Japan established diplomatic relations with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania last October after the three Baltic states regained independence following the August 1991 coup attempt in Moscow, ending five decades of Soviet rule.

Vahi said Estonia's trade with the former Soviet Union has since dropped significantly.

Before, most of Estonia's exports went to parts of the Soviet Union, he noted.

He predicted that the economic situation in the country will get significantly worse in November, with shortages of fuel and food becoming critical then.

Vahi pointed out Estonia's plan to introduce its own currency, the kroon, or crown, to replace the Soviet ruble.

He said Estonia hopes the currency, which is to be pegged to the German mark and backed by overseas gold reserves, will become fully convertible into hard currencies.

Estonia is reported to be preparing to introduce the kroon in June. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised Estonia to delay issue of the currency until liberalization of prices and privatization of industry was completed.

Vahi said Estonia wants to consult further with the IMF on its plan to issue the new currency. Estonia is to be admitted into the international financial body next week.

Officials said Vahi also touched on Estonia's irritation at the continued presence of some 25,000 Russian troops on its soil, saying their presence "destabilizes the domestic political situation."

Noting Japan's dispute with Moscow over four Russian-occupied islands, Vahi said three Estonian islands are similarly in Russian hands.

Government To Grant Emergency Aid to Africa

OW2605091892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan will grant 10.9 billion yen worth of emergency humanitarian aid to countries in southern Africa to help alleviate the effects of widespread drought there, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Masamichi Hanabusa said the grants are being announced in advance of a plea anticipated soon for international assistance by the United Nations and the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference (SADCC).

"This is among the worst (drought) in 50 years," Hanabusa said, citing the findings of a recent mission to the region by U.N. organizations.

"At least 15 million people are faced with starvation and they are in need of four million tons of food," he said.

Hanabusa said the Japanese grant would include 2.1 billion yen in emergency food aid, 3.8 billion yen to facilitate increased food production, and 5.0 billion yen in nonproject aid to assist economic structural adjustments, including measures against drought.

He said Japan will also consider extending further food aid via international organizations for refugees and afflicted persons in the region.

The aid comes on top of 3.9 billion yen in aid Japan granted to the region at the end of March. The total pledged this year comes to some 14.8 billion yen or about 110 million dollars.

The nine recipient countries are Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The United States has announced about 220 million dollars in aid, the European Community (EC) about 270 million dollars.

Separate from the EC contribution, Britain has offered up to some 52 million dollars and the Netherlands 45 million dollars.

NEC Wins Communications Project From Brazil

OW2605014592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0014 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—NEC Corp. has received an order worth 112 million dollars for an optical fiber communications network and a digital microwave trunk communications network from the Brazilian Government's communications carrier Embratel, an industry newspaper reported Tuesday.

Embratel's plans to construct a 470-kilometer optical fiber line to connect Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, and a 3,000-kilometer mircowave communication line between Porto Velho and Cuiaba, the NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN said.

As part of the government's market-opening measures, Embratel plans to invest a total of 1.1 billion dollars in optical fiber and microwave projects until the year 2000, according to the daily.

NEC has the largest share in the digital microwave market in Brazil of 45 percent and a 30 percent share in its optical fiber communications market, the paper said.

'Lowest-Ever' Growth Target Planned for 1992-96

OW2605090792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—The government plans to set its lowest-ever average growth target of 3.5 percent for the Japanese economy over the next five years, government sources said Tuesday.

The annual growth target for the five-year period, which began April 1, is the lowest on record for the Japanese economy and less than 3.75 percent for the five-year period which began in fiscal 1988.

In an apparent move to allay criticism from other major economic powers, the government will stress sustained expansion led by growth in domestic demand, the sources said.

External contributions to the economic expansion will be set at about minus 0.2 percent, they said.

The United States and some West European countries have urged Japan to take positive measures to boost its economic growth.

The new five-year economic plan will be formally decided on at a meeting set for Friday by the Economic Council, an advisory organ to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, they said.

They said Miyazawa will present the outline of the new plan at the July economic summit of the world's seven leading industrial countries in Munich, Germany.

They said the government anticipates slower economic growth in the next five years due to an acute labor shortage, shorter work hours, and environmental efforts to reduce consumption of resources.

Price Gap With Other Countries Said To Narrow

OW2605014792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0026 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—The price differential between goods sold in Japan and foreign countries narrowed a bit in 1991, but remained wide for some consumer goods, a government report released Tuesday showed.

The Economic Planning Agency's [EPA] report showed prices in Tokyo were 1.27 times higher than in New York, down from the 1.39 figure in 1988, as the price index for New York stood at 79 against the base of 100 for Tokyo.

In 1991, Tokyo prices were 1.32 times higher than those in Hamburg, Germany, also below the 1.47 figure in 1988, the report showed. The price index for Hamburg was 76.

Tokyo prices also were about 1.2 times higher than Paris and 1.1 times than London as the price index stood at 86 for Paris and 92 for London.

The price gap has been cited by the United States as proof that structural barriers keep prices high in Japan. The findings are based on a survey taken last November.

An EPA official said the findings showed price differentials have been narrowing steadily but slowly because of deregulation of government controls and the resulting increase in competition.

Measured by the so-called purchasing power parity, one dollar was equal to 171 yen, meaning that Americans pay one dollar for an item for which Japanese pay 171 yen, the report showed.

The figure was below the 178 yen parity figure in 1988 but above the average exchange rate of 135 yen to the dollar in 1991, suggesting the yen's purchasing power increased despite the yen's depreciation from its 1988 level against the dollar.

Purchasing power parity gauges the value of a currency as measured by the goods and services it can buy.

By category, charges for housing rent and parking in Tokyo were higher than those in the major foreign cities surveyed, reflecting sky-high land prices in Tokyo.

Prices of foods, clothing, and shoes in Tokyo were also higher than in the foreign cities, but prices of consumer electronics goods and cars were lower than in the foreign cities except New York.

Nation 'Largest Holder' of Foreign Assets Again

OW2605014892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan returned in 1991 to be the world's largest holder of net foreign assets, with the gap between its overseas assets and liabilities to foreigners widening 17 percent to over 383 billion dollars, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

Japan lost the top spot to the former West Germany in 1990 for the first time since 1985, the ministry said.

Outstanding foreign assets at the end of 1991 amounted to 2,006,521 million dollars, up 148,659 million dollars from a year earlier, it said.

Its foreign liabilities totaled 1,623,449 million dollars, up 93,646 million dollars.

The difference between the two, or net foreign assets, came to 383,072 million dollars, up 55,013 million dollars from the year-earlier figure.

The amount eclipsed Germany's net foreign assets of 345.4 billion dollars at the end of 1991, ministry officials said.

But they said the figures for each country are not calculated the same way, so exact comparisons are impossible.

Japan's outstanding direct foreign investment in the private sector increased to 231,791 million dollars for the year from 201,441 million dollars in 1990.

Outstanding investment in foreign securities by Japanese investors rose 68,314 million dollars to 632,129 million dollars.

Meanwhile, direct foreign investment in Japan picked up by 2,447 million dollars to 12,297 million dollars at the end of 1991.

Nations Agree To Continue Bluefin Tuna Talks

OW2605063092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0540 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan, the United States and Canada have agreed to continue discussions on quotas for bluefin tuna hauls, the Fisheries Agency reported Tuesday.

The agency said the agreement was reached at a special session in Tokyo of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The U.S. and Canada agreed to continue talks on a proposed 50 percent cut in the quotas, saying there were signs of a recovery in the bluefin tuna stock, agency officials said.

Prior to the special meeting, ICCAT held a working group session attended by representatives of 22 member countries May 19-22 to discuss problems concerning tuna fishing operations, the officials said.

The attendants agreed to ask nonmember countries to report data on their hauls of bluefin tunas, the officials said.

The officials said the participants proposed that ICCAT study the possibility of introducing a system to identify countries that catch bluefin tunas in case the request is ignored.

Research Group Proposes UN Standing Army

OW2605083192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0801 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—The United Nations should establish a standing army with a bigger role than that of its current peacekeeping forces, a Japanese economic research group proposed Tuesday.

The report, compiled by the Japan Economic Research Institute, pointed out that the strengthened U.N. role is essential in dealing with global threats in the transitional period following the end of the cold war era.

It proposed creating a standing army based on the charter of the United Nations and which could be deployed in case of a small-scale emergency.

The institute said in its report that it would be necessary for Japan to join the forces in order to fulfill its obligation to cooperate with the U.N. in promoting peace.

The report also said Japan and Germany should become permanent members of the U.N. Security Council because the two countries have the highest financial capabilities in the world.

Kanemaru Criticizes SDPJ Regarding PKO Bill

OW2505104192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] At a meeting held in Showa town, Yamanashi Prefecture today, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Vice President Kanemaru touched on the peacekeeping operations [PKO] cooperation bilis and said that since it is the people's desire to pass the PKO bills, it is regrettable that the the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] is opposed to their passage. Thus, he again criticized the the SDPJ.

In his speech, Vice President Kanemaru said that it is people's desire to pass the PKO bills and that the LDP, the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], and Komeito have indicated their stand of supporting the bills. He then said that the SDPJ maintains its opposition stance because of pressure from the bottom of the party and that it is matter of regret. Thus, he again criticized the SDPJ, which is opposed to the bills, by saying that the SDPJ is a main opposition party and they should foresee the situation when PKO bills are scrapped.

Ozawa Discounts Likelihood of Dual Elections

OW2505091592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Saga, May 25 KYODO—The former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Ichiro Ozawa, said Monday that a dual election for the Diet is unlikely because he expects the House of Councillors will approve the peacekeeping cooperation bill in the current session.

"I expect the PKO (peacekeeping operations) bill will be approved by the upper house based on a three-party tie-up among the LDP, Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party," Ozawa said at a press conference.

Ozawa, currently acting president of the most powerful faction in the LDP, also said he opposes dissolving the House of Representatives even if the Diet this session fails to reapportion lower house seats.

Ozawa said the government should not call a general election over the apportioning of Diet seats.

"It is getting things backwards to call an election because (the government) fails to settle conditions judged as unconstitutional," he said.

The peacekeeping bill, which passed the lower house last December with the support of the LDP and centrist Komeito Party, can become law only if it is approved in both chambers of the Diet.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa asked LDP leaders last week to act on an overdue plan to reapportion lower house seats.

The move has fueled speculation that Miyazawa may call a snap election for the lower house, to be held simultaneously with the upper house election already scheduled for July.

At an upper house plenary session Monday in Tokyo, Miyazawa indirectly criticized remarks by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe threatening a snap election, saying "dissolution of the lower house must not be lightly discussed."

Watanabe suggested at a Saturday seminar that if the biggest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, strongly opposes the peacekeeping bill by resorting to "physical resistance," including a slow-down in the voting, the government could dissolve the lower house.

Miyazawa repeated that he hopes the bill will be passed soon, saying "I earnestly wish the bill to pass through at the current Diet sesssion following thorough deliberations."

Official Hints at Jul Simultaneous Elections

OW2505143192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—Japan may have simultaneous elections for both houses of the Japanese Diet in July, a high-ranking Finance Ministry official hinted Monday.

The official said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa may be forced to dissolve the powerful House of Representatives if peacekeeping legislation now before the opposition-controlled House of Councillors goes nowhere.

"The PKO (peacekeeping operations bill) is of strong interest domestically and internationally," the official said, speaking on condition he not be identified.

The upper house elections are slated for July.

The official made the remarks a day after Finance Minister Tsutomi Hata predicted that there may be simultaneous elections for both houses.

Miyazawa Dismisses Calls for Diet Dissolution

OW2705083292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday dismissed calls for a Diet dissolution, reaffirming his hopes for the enactment of a government-proposed bill that would allow Japan to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Miyazawa made the remarks in the House of Councillors' special panel on international peace cooperation, which focused on deliberations on Cambodian problems.

Referring to calls from cabinet ministers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for a dissolution of the lower house and simultaneous elections for both houses, Miyazawa said, "The dissolution (of the lower house) is a matter that only I can decide.

"It is all right to comment on political judgments or ideas from statesmen's points of view, though, " he said.

Several cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, suggested dissolving the Diet if the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) continues to oppose the passage of the bill.

The SDP is against the bill now pending before the opposition-controlled House of Councillors. The measure passed the lower house last December.

Watanabe, vindicating his earlier remarks on a dissolution, told the committee, "Votes should be taken on the bill sometime (during the current Diet session). I mean, if there is dissension (in voting), we cannot help but dissolve."

In response to Watanabe's remarks on the dual elections, Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawai said, "The conclusion (of the bill) must come during the current session. But (the bill) is worth asking for the people's judgment (through double elections)."

Answering an SDP questioner about the activities of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Miyazawa expressed his belief that the UNTAC is unlikely to be involved in disputes in Cambodia.

In Cambodia, reported peace accord violations have continued due to sporadic attacks involving Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia's northern province of Kompong Thom.

"I think UNTAC leader Yasushi Akashi and UNTAC force commander Lt. Gen. John Sanderson will deal with (the violation) through fortitude, since if the UN peacekeeping forces open fire, they will become belligerent parties," Miyazawa said.

LDP Executives View Lower House Reallocation

OW2505095392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] A meeting of the three key executives of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] was held this morning to discuss the issue of rectifying the imbalance in the number of House of Representatives seats. Regarding the prime minister's proposal on increasing the number of House of Representatives seats in nine districts and reducing the number in 10 others, the key executives agreed that it will be difficult to obtain a consensus on Miyazawa's plan within the LDP by 28 May because of opposition among LDP members.

The meeting was held at the party headquarters this morning with the party's three top executives, including Secretary General Watanuki. At the meeting, the three executives exchanged views on how to consolidate the party in connection with the plan of increasing the number of seats in nine districts and reducing the number in 10 others. During the meeting, General Council Chairman Sato reported that the opposition's view against the plus-nine/minus-10 seats plan were successively expressed during the General Council meeting held last week. He then indicated his view that it would be difficult to obtain a consensus within the party.

In response, Policy Research Council Chairman Mori said that even if it is difficult to reach a consensus by 28 May, he wants to consolidate the views within the party at least by the political reform consultation between the ruling party and the opposition parties scheduled for 1 June. Thus, the top executives agreed that it will be difficult to obtain a consensus within the party by 28 May.

Moreover, they agreed that it is necessary to define the significance of linking the plus-nine/minus-10 seats plan with a drastic political reform plan to be proposed by Prime Minister Miyazawa in November. In this connection, they reached a consensus that the political reform headquarters will study the theoretical positioning for planned reapportionment of seats of the House of Representatives as part of a drastic reform.

In addition, a view was expressed at the meeting that it is necessary to coordinate the views within the party as soon as possible. To deal with this, Secretary General Watanuki, who is playing a central role in coordinating views with the party, decided to call on leaders of the LDP this afternoon and ask for their cooperation.

Bank Chief Sees Signs of Economic Recovery

OW2605075392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Tuesday he now sees some positive factors in the economy which could grow into a recovery.

Mieno, speaking at a conference of credit associations, said, "A couple of factors are now observed that could bud into a prospective recovery."

While admitting the economy is still in a painful adjustment phase, Mieno said "there is little risk of the business conditions deteriorating further, and the economy will eventually shift to balanced growth as the inventory adjustment proceeds on."

Mieno mentioned some recent bright signals such as the firm consumer spending supported by the stable labor market, the apparent recovery of housing investment, the bottoming-out of capital spending by small manufacturing companies, and falling inventory levels.

He said the monetary easing since last July and the fiscal stimulus announced at the end of March will make a "sufficient contribution to realizing stable growth in the economy."

The central bank will keep watching the effects of the latest cut in the official discount rate move through the economy, and will keep tabs on the changes the credit easing causes in different aspects of the economy, he said.

The chief central banker also called on credit associations to augment their management when it comes to taking risks.

He said the largest lesson of the financial market scandals last year is the importance of risk management and the principles behind it.

The quality of assets held by financial institutions are deteriorating as the so-called bubble economy is being corrected, Mieno said.

He also emphasized the importance of managing the risks involved in basic operations of financial institutions, which were clearly illustrated by the scandals.

Hata Says Economic Outlook Brighter Than in Apr

OW2605025992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said on Tuesday that the economy is already on the mend, apparently brushing aside calls for additional measures to quicken recovery.

Hata told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the domestic economy is showing brighter signs, compared with its state in April.

The fiscal stimulus package announced on March 31 and the monetary easing on April 1 are steadily producing results, he said.

Hata voiced concern about a possible resurgence of inflation in rejecting calls from some powerful politicians of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for further steps to boost the economy.

"We must not repeat the silly mistake (of the late 1980s) of being slow to tighten monetary policy, thereby creating the speculative bubble," he said.

"Inflation would hit the people's livelihood directly, when we are striving to improve the quality of their lives."

Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister and known as the kingmaker of the ruling party, called Monday for a further cut in the official discount rate and for a supplementary budget to provide a boost to the economy.

Hata, pointing to smoothly proceeding inventory adjustment, the recent upturn in housing investments, and the improved outlook for consumer spending, said the economy is now bottoming out.

Hata said the private sector must overcome the current adjustment phase from rapid to steady economic growth, which he termed an "inevitable process," with the help of the government's pump-priming measures.

He also said the government should not aim at a fast expansion of the economy in its five-year economic plan, which began in April.

"Just seeking a high rate of growth would engender inflation," he said. "We should set our sights on a cruising speed."

He said there is a perception among government economists that a target of around 3.0 percent or slightly higher in average annual economic growth for the medium-term plan now being drafted, is acceptable.

A major economic daily reported Tuesday that the government has decided to set a real gross national product (GNP) growth goal of an average 3.5 percent per year for the five-year plan period.

The finance minister continued to say that Japan's external surplus will not continue growing.

Hata said that structural factors will prevent Japan's surplus from continuing to expand, and pointed to a steady shift of production overseas and increasing imports.

Cautious in Decontrolling Stock

OW2605041592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata Tuesday expressed caution over planned deregulation to allow corporations to purchase their own stocks to shore up slumping share prices.

Hata told the House of Councillors finance committee the question needs a cautious approach if it is designed solely to buoy sagging stock prices.

He said the step may prompt corporations to engage in insider trading or illegal stock transactions using inside information.

The government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party have proposed removing existing laws barring corporations from acquiring their own shares as a means to push up stock prices.

Finance Official Dismisses Call for Interest Cut

OW2505125192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—A top official of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) Monday brushed aside a renewed call by a powerful politician of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for a further cut in interest rates.

The official, who refused to be identified, said lowering the official discount rate now is unlikely to create any significant thrust for the economy.

He also said additional fiscal spendings won't give it much of a boost either.

The official responded to a Japanese reporter's question about remarks earlier in the day by Shin Kanemaru, LDP vice president who has lots of clout in the party.

Kanemaru said the Bank of Japan (BOJ)'s 0.75 percentage point cut in the benchmark lending rate on April 1 should have been a 1.0 percentage point slash.

The MOF official argued the current slowdown of the economy is different in nature from others in the past.

"The money supply has not showed any signs of upturn despite the sharp cuts in the interest rates, and that indicates the conditions are not good for investments at the moment," he said.

"A further cut in rates is unlikely to have any significant impact."

He also said more public works spending to stimulate the economy will have little impact under the current conditions.

"The measures we have already taken are producing results, and we have no plan to add to them," he said. "Who will take the responsibility if inflation picks up ?" He said.

The MOF official, asked about the issue of whether allowing long-term credit banks to raise their long-term prime rates, said, "that is a matter that should be decided in principle by the market."

"It is difficult for us to do something that runs counter to the market trend," he said, suggesting MOF will allow the banks to raise the rate at the end of May.

MOF intervened in the moves among Japan's three long-term credit banks to raise the benchmark rate in April.

LDP Plans Bill To Tighten Nonbank Lending

OW2705053292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is considering submitting to the current Diet session a bill that would revise the relevant law to tighten regulations on lending by nonbank financial institutions, party sources said Wednesday.

Two LDP bodies—the Finance Division and the Investigation Committee for the Finance and Banking Systems—met Wednesday morning and agreed to conduct a further study on the nonbank industry, the sources said.

The heads of the Finance Division and of the Commerce and Industry Division, another LDP panel, are expected to come up with specific proposals, the sources said.

The sources said this indicates that the party may submit a bill to the Diet proposing to strengthen the reporting requirements of nonbanks about their loans.

Meanwhile, according to government sources, an advisory panel at the Finance Ministry is seeking to allow the issuance of commercial paper (cp) by nonbank institutions, while recommending they voluntarily regulate their activities, particularly large-lot lending.

The panel, an advisory group to the head of the ministry's banking bureau, eyes reorganizing the credit industry by tightening regulations on the one hand while diversifying ways of raising funds on the other, the sources said.

The law controlling moneylending by nonbanks and others was revised last year to require nonbanks to report to the Finance Ministry on loans extended to real estate concerns, but there have been discussions within the LDP that such a reporting system should be applied to all nonbank lending.

Concern has grown about the financial health of nonbanks following the collapse in the late 1980s of the economic bubble of inflated land and stock prices.

The government sources, however, said the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which supervises some nonbank institutions such as leasing companies and consumer credit companies, is against the idea on the grounds that it would allow the Finance Ministry to encroach on the MITI territory.

NEC To Cut Chip-Producing Facilities Spending

OW2605000892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2357 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—NEC Corp., a major communications equipment maker, plans to cut its spending on plants and equipment for making semiconductors in the current fiscal year by 20 percent from the previous year, the NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Tuesday.

The company will spend 80 billion yen in fiscal 1992 on such facilities, compared with fiscal 1991's 100 billion yen, because of the slowing demand for chips.

This will be the first time in three years that NEC's chip-related capital spending will sink below 100 billion yen, the industrial newspaper said.

The downsized investment reflects a sluggish recovery in the domestic chip market, which is projected to shrink 1.0 percent in fiscal 1992.

Panel To Propose New Patent Screening Law

OW2505143092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—A government advisory panel will propose a sweeping revision of the patent law, including the shortening of the period to examine applications for patents, according to a report prepared by the group and obtained by KYODO News Service on Monday.

The report was prepared by a subcommittee of the Industrial Property Council, an advisory panel to the Minister of International Trade and Industry.

The report said objections concerning applications for patents will not be accepted until after the patents are officially registered.

As for new designs, the present screening system will be abolished and replaced with a registration system, the report said.

The period to examine applications for new patents will be shortened from the present average of 32 months to 24 months by the beginning of 1995.

The proposed revision of the patent law is designed to keep it abreast with standards to be set by the World Industrial Property Organization.

MITI Plans National Stockpiling of LPG

OW2605041892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan plans to introduce a system requiring a government stockpile of 1.5 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), the equivalent of 30 days of imports, by fiscal 2010, government officials said Tuesday.

Officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Natural Resources and Energy Agency said the plans are designed to ensure steady supplies of LPG, widely used in homes and for taxi fuel.

The plans also call for a stockpile of 1.3 million tons, the equivalent of 25 days of LPG imports, by fiscal 2005, the officials said.

The government stockpile will supplement 2 million tons, equivalent to 50 days of imports, the private sector has been required to stockpile since fiscal 1981.

Under the plan, MITI will begin building LPG storage facilities at five locations nationwide in fiscal 1996, the officials said.

About three-fourths of Japan's total LPG consumption, which totaled 19.4 million tons in fiscal 1991, is imported and 80 percent of the imports come from the Middle East.

The heavy dependence on imports caused a sharp rise in LPG prices during the Persian Gulf crisis that started in 1990.

Miyazawa To Attend Summit if PKO Bill Passes

OW2205041292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will attend the Earth Summit next month if he can be sure that the House of Councillors will approve a controversial bill enabling Japan to contribute to U.N. peacekeeping operations, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Friday.

Watanabe told a news conference after a cabinet session that the prime minister is the only member of the cabinet who can head Japan's delegation. He said Miyazawa is very eager to attend the conference, officially called the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, which is being held in Rio de Janeiro on June 3-14.

It is not certain when the House of Councillors, in which the ruling Liberal Democratic Party lacks an overall majority, will vote on the peacekeeping bill, which was approved by the more powerful House of Representatives in December. The current Diet session ends June 21.

Takeshita Motives in Summit Attendance Analyzed

OW2505001492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2313 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 (KYODO)—A former Japanese prime minister forced to resign in disgrace returns to center stage internationally in June.

Noboru Takeshita, who held office from November 1987 to June 1989, will go to Rio de Janeiro to attend the June 3-14 Earth Summit.

The meeting, officially known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), will be his first appearance at a large international session outside Japan since he stepped down as prime minister in the wake of a stocks-for-favors scandal in 1989.

About 102 heads of state will be among the representatives from at least 160 nations taking part in the Rio Conference.

Many in Japan's political world believe Takeshita has not given up hope of returning to the prime minister's official residence to become the first postwar politician to regain the premiership.

Even though skeptics do not seem convinced, Takeshita says he is not interested in becoming prime minister again.

Takeshita, 68, has traveled abroad and met with leading world figures, including U.S. President George Bush and Chinese Premier Li Peng, after he stepped down from power. But he has not attended any significant overseas international meeting since he left office.

His presence in the coming meeting, thus, is likely to set the environment firmly on Japan's political agenda this year chiefly because he continues to hold political clout at home.

Those who know his political background wonder why Takeshita has become interested in the environment.

He is titular head of a group of a dozen conservative lawmakers tackling environmental issues. Former Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, a close Takeshita aide, officially leads the group.

The group is only marginally interested in the environment and that part of its agenda is to chart Japan's entry into the market for environmental technology after the Earth Summit, political commentators say.

The UNCED secretariat believes it will cost 125 billion dollars a year to finance a number of environmental protection plans, such as preventing global warming, ending the population explosion, improving energy efficiency, and preserving forests.

Takeshita wants Japan to contribute 20 percent to 30 percent of this sum, or as much as 31.2 billion dollars.

Shunsuke Iwasaki, chairman of the '92 Ngo Forum, Japan, a coalition of nongovernmental organizations, said he believes Takeshita and other politicians of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have multiple motives for treating the environment as an issue.

He said they probably include a desire to cultivate new sources of political contributions to retain power within the LDP, as well as an attempt to solicit support from young, environmentally conscious party members at prefectural and town levels.

"I might be optimistic but I feel they are also thinking of the environment," Iwasaki said. "But possibly political funds are the main reason."

Those close to Takeshita say his initial encounter with environmental problems was in 1988 when he represented Japan at the summit of the world's seven major industrialized nations in Toronto, Canada, where the issue of the environment was brought up for the first time.

Takeshita has since said that a politician with neither interest in nor insight into global environmental problems cannot be called a world leader.

He said it is time for Japan to make monetary contributions to protect the environment and pointed out that for six years after World War II the United States gave Japan 2 billion dollars annually under its government and relief in occupied areas program.

This assistance, he said, served as the foundation for Japan's phenomenal postwar recovery.

Canadian Maurice Strong, the UNCED secretary general, says Takeshita is a strong advocate of environmental preservation.

On the final day of the April 15-17 eminent persons conference in Tokyo, a gathering of leading politicians and business executives, held in preparation for the Rio meeting, Strong praised Takeshita for serving as co-host for the gathering.

Strong presented the former prime minister with a special medal and described him as "one of Japan's great visionary leaders and statesmen, one of the great earth leaders of the planet."

Takeshita is scheduled to give a speech at another eminent persons conference set for June 4 at Rio. The session is one of formal events of the Earth Summit.

Takeshita Leaves 26 May for U.S., Earth Summit

OW2605061292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0446 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita left Japan on Tuesday for New York to attend a meeting of former finance ministers of seven major industrialized nations before heading for the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Takeshita will attend the meeting of former members of the conference of ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) in New York and then stop over in Argentina and Uruguay, aides said.

He is scheduled to hold talks with Argentina's President Carlos Saul Menem and Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera, the officials said.

At the June 3-14 earth summit, officially called the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, he is scheduled to make a keynote speech and report on the results of the eminent persons' meeting on environment and development held in Tokyo in April, the aides said.

Government To Study Emission Rules for Vessels

OW2005122992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The Transport Ministry will form a study panel to look for rules on currently regulation-free exhaust emissions from ships, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The study panel will submit by next March a report on how to regulate emissions in line with new international rules being negotiated by the 136-nation International Maritime Organization (IMO), they said.

The IMO agreed last July to draft new rules on preventing ocean pollution from ships, including exhaust emmissions, by 1994.

The officials said standards on emissions, requirements for clean engines and environment-friendly fuel such as low-sulfur oil and exhaust emission monitoring are being considered for the new internatinal rules.

The study panel will examine how to deal with the new international rules as well as antipollution technologies, the officials said.

Guidelines Given to New Environment Panel

OW2105083892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe gave guidelines Thursday to a newly formed panel that is to work out comprehensive measures to protect the environment and curb energy use.

Watanabe told the first meeting of the panel that the measures should be worked out on the basis of international cooperation, technological innovation from a long-term perspective, and balanced economic growth.

Hideo Suzuki, head of the ministry's Industrial Location and Environmental Protection Bureau, said other important tasks were drastic reform in the energy supply-demand structure and an earth revival program through international cooperation.

The panel, headed by Vice Minister Yuji Tanahashi, is to work out concrete measures by this fall on industrial structures in harmony with the environment, international assistance to deal with energy, and other themes, ministry officials said.

Osaka To Teach English in Elementary Schools

OW2205052892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0431 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 (KYODO)—Two municipal elementary schools in Osaka will become the first public primary schools in Japan as early as this fall to teach experimental English classes, Education Minister Kunio Hatoyama said Friday.

Hatoyama told reporters after a cabinet meeting that the two schools in Sanadayama and Ajihara, Osaka will launch the English classes on an experimental basis as early as the second semester, which starts in September.

Each year, fourth graders will have 15 hours of "international education" classes which will include English study, while the sixth graders will have 70 hours of such classes, Hatoyama said.

Rather than teaching classes only the alphabet and grammar, the classes will be aimed at helping students become familiar with the English language and cultures of the United States and Europe, he said.

The classes will focus on conversation including class contact with foreigners, Hatoyama said, adding that he will set up a committee composed of teachers and experts to discuss further details.

After the experimental classes begin, the ministry will conduct a survey to collect opinions from pupils, teachers, and parents, and it will reflect on those opinions as part of its research.

The ministry will also study ways to train teachers for the English classes if they are to be introduced to elementary schools across the country, Hatoyama said.

North Korea

Congressman Solarz Called 'Despicable Philistine'

SK2705050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 27 May 92

["Blast of Solarz Under Fire"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—Solarz, chairman of a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, recently let out a bellicose blast, crying over fictitious "nuclear threat" and "human rights problem" of the DPRK and contending that the United States should pursue a double-dealing policy of softness and toughness and pay particular attention to the tough policy against North Korea.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a jargon of a political philistine who is accustomed to distort facts and reverse black and white and a folly not befitting a politician.

The analyst says:

Solarz totally lacks a reasonable thinking power that a politician should possess and the capacity to look into the future. As is widely known, the problem of nuclear inspection between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency is being smoothly solved and the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula is on the order of the day thanks to the consistent and sincere efforts of ours after the DPRK-U.S. high-level talks. This notwithstanding, Solarz openly called for the use of force, not sounding like a politician of civil service. This proves that he is a foolish political charlatan who has no capacity to look an inch ahead, not to speak of a distant future. When he let out a string of bellicose rigmarole totally contradictory to the new developments on the Korean peninsula, he stripped himself naked as a political idiot who has not yet renounced the outmoded concept of confrontation of the era of cold war.

Solarz took issue with the "human rights" problem in the DPRK where human rights are fully and strictly guaranteed, keeping silence about the violation of human rights in the United States and South Korea. This shows that he has the habit of fabricating anything and slandering others at random, if they go against the grains with him and he has lost the elementary qualification as a lawmaker who must be impartial and upright.

No matter what trash such political mountebank as Solarz may utter, we will not lend an ear to it but solve the problem of nuclear inspection with sincerity.

We believe that far-sighted and reasonable politicians of the United States will act in conformity with the trend of the times and the development of the present situation, though such third-rate politician as Solarz, a political illiterate and despicable philistine, commits such folly.

U.S. Called 'Violator of Human Rights'

SK2305105492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 23 May 92

["The United States Is Crude Violator of Human Rights"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 23 (KCNA)—The noisy advertisement of the imperialists about the guarantee of human rights and democratic freedom and rights of people in capitalist countries is a shameless sophistry completely reversing black and white, and it is aimed at destroying socialism and beautifying and embellishing capitalism, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It says:

The recent riot of black people in the United States vividly shows once again that the actual human rights violators are imperialists although they are speaking ill of socialism, styling themselves "human rights defenders".

If there are any human rights in the United States it is for the capitalists and privileged classes, not for the popular masses.

The working masses who account for an overwhelming majority of society in the United States cannot become masters of society but objects of exploitation and oppression because they are excluded from state power and have no means of production, and therefore, they cannot enjoy any political rights and freedom.

Citing facts in detail to prove that in the United States the laboring masses are totally excluded from politics and they have their elementary right to existence and rights of ideological and cultural life violated, the article stresses:

No one who has a normal faculty of thinking will call the U.S. society a "society that guarantees human rights", a society in which there are no political freedom and democracy for the toiling masses, their vital rights are not ensured and all sorts of social evils are prevalent, driving people into panic.

The U.S. authorities should try to solve the human rights problem of the United States itself before poking their nose in the human rights problems of other countries.

U.S. 'Strategy for World Supremacy' Condemned

SK2705103692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 27 May 92

["U.S. Imperialists' Military Strategy for World Supremacy and Their Policy of Occupation in South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—It is an invariable world strategy of the U.S. imperialists to dominate the world with strength. They seek to gratify their desire for world supremacy by means of swallowing up major areas of the three continents, particularly, military vantages and main areas of resource, and independent and anti-imperialist countries one by one with strength under the cloak of "settlement of regional disputes".

NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed article today.

It further says:

The primary target of the "new military strategy" of the United States for world supremacy is the Korean peninsula. Suffice it to recall that the U.S. rulers are crying that to "deter the crisis and disputes on the Korean peninsula" should be an immediate task, contending that it is the Korean peninsula where "major disputes" are likely to occur in the future in this world.

The U.S. imperialists' policy of occupying South Korea is an offspring of their anti-socialist policy of cold war.

Left without a ground to continue their occupation of South Korea and moves of aggression, they intend to justify it by inventing a new fiction of "threat from the North" with outcries over the North's "nuclear development".

The United States should look straight at the present current of the international situation and development of history and boldly change its Korean policy in conformity with the desire of the American people and the world peaceloving people and discharge its obligation in solving the question of peace in Korea and its reunification.

Today when the North and the South agreed with each other to solve this question independently by pooling their strength, if the United States has the least interest in peace in Korea and its reunification it should discard its old thinking pattern of the cold war era based on the stand of strength, take its hand of aggression and interference off South Korea and withdraw its aggression forces from South Korea without delay.

PRC's Ding Guangen, Delegation Arrive for Visit

Delegation Arrives 25 May

SK2505132792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1115 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 5 (KCNA)—Ding Guangen, alternate member of the Political Bureau and member of the Secetariat of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Communist Party of China, and his entourage arrived here today. They were met at the airport by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK, and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

WPK Hosts Banquet

SK2605144392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] arranged a banquet for Ding Guangen, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and member of the Secretariat of the party Central Committee, and his party at the Ongnyu Hall on the evening of 25 May. The banquet was attended by Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and secretary of the party Central Committee; Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; and other functionaries concerned. PRC Ambassador to the DPRK Zheng Yi and embassy officials were invited.

Comrade Choe Tae-pok made a speech.

He referred to the Chinese guests' visit to our country at a time when the flower garden of traditional friendship between the parties and peoples of Korea and China is in full bloom and beautiful.

He said that Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our people, visited China last October and met with Chinese party and state leaders and that esteemed President Yang Shangkun visited our country last April to warmly congratulate the great leader on his 80th birthday. He continued: This historic event engraved another brilliant chapter on the chronicle of immortal Korean-Chinese friendship and strengthened and developed the relations of traditional friendship between the two countries to a higher stage.

He noted that Korean-Chinese friendship is based on deep intimacy and revolutionary obligation between the leaders and has therefore more staunchly continued while surmounting all sorts of trials.

He noted that under the leadership of the CPC with esteemed General Secretary Jiang Zemin as its core, the fraternal Chinese people are vigorously accelerating the task of modernizing the country, firmly grasping reform, openness, and the four cardinal principles, and are making all efforts to achieve the country's reunification at the earliest possible date. He said: We sincerely rejoice over the successes the Chinese party and people have achieved in socialist construction and in the cause to reunify the whole country and warmly congratulate them.

He stressed that our party and people will fight to the end with the fraternal Chinese party and people for the consummation of the cause of socialism, which has been victoriously advanced.

Secretary Ding Guangen spoke next.

He said he had hoped to visit Korea a long time ago, that Korea is a heroic country, and that the Korean people have a glorious revolutionary tradition.

He said: Under the leadership of President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il the diligent and brave Korean people have registered great successes in socialist construction by consistently adhering to socialism and by displaying the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

Noting that special relations of friendship with deep historic roots have been maintained between China and Korea, he said that Korean-Chinese friendship is being constantly strengthened and developed.

He said that leaders of our parties and countries have further deepened fraternity and trust by frequently visiting each other and exchanging opinions on experiences in socialist contruction and on important international issues.

Saying that esteemed President Kim Il-song visited China on many occasions, that General Secretary Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng visited Korea, and President Yang Shangkun visited our country recently to attend the festivities of the esteemed comrade president's 80th birthday, he stressed that this greatly demonstrates the traditional friendship between the parties and peoples of the two countries.

Noting that the party and Government of Korea have put forward reasonable proposals for alleviating tensions on the Korean peninsula and for achieving the country's independent and peaceful reunification, have made consistent efforts for their realization, and, thus, have achieved remarkable successes, he said: We rejoice over this very much.

He continued: We wish the Korean people greater success in their future struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The guests at the banquet toasted the eternal and immortal fraternal friendship and solidarity between the parties and people of Korea and China; the long life and good health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song; the long life and good health of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il; and the long life and good health of esteemed Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, and Li Peng.

Meets Kim Il-song

SK2705104692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Ding Guangen, alternate Politburo member and member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Communist Party of China, and his entourage and the delegation of the Jiangsu provincial committee of the CPC headed by Sun Jiazheng, alternate member of the C.C., CPC and deputy secretary of the Jiangsu provincial committee of the CPC, on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK, and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Korea.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He was presented with gifts by them.

He arranged a luncheon for them.

Kim Il-song Congratulates PRC's Yang Shangkun

SK2405090892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0855 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 24 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to President Yang Shangkun of the People's Republic of China on his 85th birthday.

The message says:

You took part in the revolutionary struggle for the freedom and liberation of the Chinese people in your early years and have devotedly struggled to consolidate the stabilized and united political phase and further develop the country since you held the important post of the president of the People's Republic of China.

Today the Chinese people are vigorously advancing along the road of socialism chosen by themselves under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and have made a great success in the struggle to build socialism with Chinese characteristics.

You are respected by your people for your great contribution to the socialist construction in China and to the cause of the improvement of the people's wellbeing.

We extend firm solidarity to the endeavours of you and the Chinese people to accelerate the modernization of socialism, achieve the prosperity of the country and reunify the whole country.

Korea-China friendship has long historical roots and has constantly strengthened and developed through mutual visits and meetings between the leaders of the two countries.

I am convinced that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties, two countries and two peoples which showed through your visit to our country in April will continue to grow stronger and develop.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I sincerely wish you greater success in your future work as well as good health and longevity on your 85th birthday.

Yang Hyong-sop, Delegation Visit PRC's Wan Li

SK2305134692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, met with our country's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] delegation led by Yang Hyong-sop, SPA chairman, on a visit to China, in Beijing on 13 May.

Peng Chong, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, and Pae Yong-chae, our country's charge d'affaires to China, attended the meeting.

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere at the meeting.

Kye Ung-tae Meets PRC Procuratorate Group

SK2605152692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 26 (KCNA)—Kye Ung-tae, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met and had a friendly talk today with the delegation of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China led by Deputy Chief Procurator Zhang Siqing at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

On hand were Deputy Procurator General Ko Yong-pong of the Central Procurator's Office and a councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

The head of the delegation said:

While staying in Korea we have deeply felt the profound reverence and trust of the Korean people for Comrade President Kim Il-song and Comrade Secretary Kim Chong-il.

The Workers' Party of Korea has created a good social order and social atmosphere by strengthening ideological education of the people.

Stating that the delegation keenly felt the sentiments of friendship of the Korean people for the Chinese people everywhere it went, he said the Sino-Korean friendship which was forged with blood and has withstood the test of history is being consolidated and developed day by day.

PRC's Li Ruihuan Meets KCNA Delegation

SK2705091692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Comrade Li Ruihuan, member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee and member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, met the Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] delegation led by Deputy Director Yang Yong-man at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 23 May.

They held a warm and friendly conversation at the meeting.

Present there were Mu Qing, president of Chinese news agency XINHUA, and Pae Yong-chae, charge d'affaires ad interim of our country to China.

Congress of Korean Group in Japan Ends

SK2405090392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tokyo May 23 (KNS-KCNA)—The 16th Congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) closed on May 23, successfully concluding its program.

Congratulatory messages from Japan and other countries, overseas Koreans organisations and Chongnyon organisations at all levels were read out at the second-day session held before the closure of the congress.

Many deputies spoke about the report on the work of the Central Committee of Chongnyon.

Congratulatory speeches were made by Shin Kanemaru, vice- president of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and member of the House of Representatives from the party; Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social- Democratic Party; Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea; Ryosho Hayashi, chief secretary of the Japan-Korea Cultural Interchange Association; Shozu Oba, chairman of the Japan Teachers' Union; Sumiko Shimizu, Social-Democratic member of the House of Councillors and secretary general of the Japanese Women's Liaison Association for Solidarity With the Korean Women; Tatsukuni Komori, Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives and secretary general of the central headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League of Japan; and Shigeru Tokoi, chairman of the working committee of the Seminar on Human Rights of Korean Residents in Japan, who were guests at the congress.

Vice-president Shin Kanemaru said he, with a career of 35 years as member of the House of Representatives of Japan, regards it as his obligation as a politician to realize the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK.

I will do my utmost to solve this issue, he declared.

Chairman Makoto Tanabe said he would like to extend his wholehearted congratulations to the great President Kim Il-song who greeted his 80th birthday and respected Secretary Kim Chong-il who greeted his 50th birthday this year.

Chongnyon has made remarkable achievements in its activities to defend the democratic national rights and develop the friendly relations between Japan and the DPRK with pride in being an overseas citizens' organisation of the DPRK, he stressed.

He noted that the DPRK has made an amazing development in state building under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il.

For an early normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK, he declared, the Japan Social-Democratic Party will strongly urge the government to sincerely approach the negotiations and will bend all efforts to this end.

Many deputies made speeches about the report on the work of Chongnyon Central Committee at the last-day session, too.

The congress unanimously elected Han Tok-su chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, Yi Chin-kyu its first vice- chairman and Pak Chae-no and eight others its vice-chairmen.

It also elected members of the Chongnyon Central Committee and Auditing Committee.

Letters to the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il were adopted at the congress.

Daily Hails Anniversary

SK2505121492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—Ever-victorious is the patriotic cause of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) which is advancing together with the socialist homeland, upholding the banner of the chuche idea under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem, and victory and glory are always in store for Chongnyon and the movement of Koreans in Japan, says NODONG SINMUN in an article dedicated to the 37th anniversary of the formation of Chongnyon.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as teaching:

"Chongnyon is a brilliant gain of the Koreans in Japan in their arduous struggle for applying the chuche idea to the overseas compatriots' movement and it is an authoritative overseas compatriots' organisation which is responsible for the destiny of the 700,000 Koreans in Japan."

In the past 37 years Chongnyon has performed proud feats for the homeland and the nation by skillfully organising and enlisting the patriotic enthusiasm of the compatriots of all walks of life in Japan, invariably remaining loyal to the socialist homeland.

Chongnyon has built up its organisation of all levels as chuche- based, patriotic organisations of overseas compatriots by steadily developing in depth the work to establish ideological and leadership systems of chuche in its ranks, keeping a tight hold on the policy of modelling the ranks on the chuche idea. Today the Chongnyon organisation has been developed in strength as a powerful organisation of overseas compatriots in which the ideological and leadership systems of chuche are firmly established from the centre to the branch and which has a reliable core force and a solid mass foundation.

With the ideological and leadership systems of chuche firmly established in the Chongnyon organisation and the patriotic enthusiasm of the compatriots inmensely elevated, it has been able to firmly defend their citizenship of the DPRK, business right, and right to national education and all other democratic national rights and greatly contribute to the prosperity and development of the homeland by bringing to full play the spirit of devoted service of the compatriots to the socialist homeland.

Chongnyon has also greatly contributed to the acceleration of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by invigorating the work for national unity with compatriots of all strata under the banner of great national unity and powerfully supporting and encouraging the just struggle of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification. And it has recorded enormous successes in the work for deepening friendship and solidarity with the Japanese people and strengthening solidarity with the world progressive people.

All the successes and exploits achieved in the patriotic activities of Chongnyon are a brilliant victory of the chuche-based idea of the overseas compatriot movement set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and a precious fruition of the wise guidance and paternal love of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Today Chongnyon is faced with weighty tasks to strengthen its ranks organisationally and ideologically and push ahead more powerfully with all its patriotic work including the movement for national reunification, with firm conviction of the victory of the cause of chuche and optimism.

The people in the homeland will, in the future, too, do everything they can to protect Chongnyon and the 700,000 compatriots in Japan and support and encourage their patriotic struggle, declares the article.

Kim Il-song Receives Outgoing Palestinian Envoy

SK2705105592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Mustafa al-Safarini, ambassador e. p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] of the State of Palestine to Korea, who paid a farewell call on him.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and officials of the Palestinian Embassy here.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the ambassador.

South Statement on Students Condemned

SK2405132692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 23 May 92

[NODONG SINMUN 23 May commentary: "Sophistry To Beautify the Antireunification Moves"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the spokesman for the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, in a 19 May telephone message, strongly called on the South Korean authorities to stop their acts of not only picking a fight with and suppressing the youth and students who had hoisted the flag of the Republic at functions, but also insulting and besmirching our Republic on account of it, fanning confrontation with us.

However, in what is called a message sent on 21 May, not only did the South side whitewash its suppressive moves against the patriotic forces aspiring for reunification with an invocation of police force for keeping law and order, it also provoked us, arguing that our making an issue of the South side's antireunification act is interference or disregard for law and order or a subversive act and move to overthrow, instead of repenting of its act.

The South side went so far as to say these nonsensical words: the consequences of undermining the agreement itself, concern, warning, and responsibility.

Simply put, the message from the person identified as the South side spokesman is an extreme form of irresponsible, brazen-faced, and cunning jargon designed to whitewash the South's suppression of the forces aspiring for reunification that runs counter to the spirit of the North-South agreement and the confrontational commotions. The message cast dark clouds over the implementation of the agreement and the future of the North-South high-level talks and passed the responsibility onto us.

The South side picked a fight with and branded our side's just protest as interference and disregard for law and order. This is an absurd remark that will convince no one.

As we have already expressed, the South Korean youth's and students' act of hoisting the flag of the Republic at functions and calling for a sincere implementation of the North-South agreement is an expression of the lofty desire for reunification to create an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity in keeping with the new situation after the effectuation of the North-South agreement and to realize national reunification on the strength of the nation's united efforts. In no sense can this be a crime.

If the South side has the intention to implement the North-South agreement in which it has committed itself to reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and South, not only should it stop suppressing the patriotic forces calling for an independent reunification based on national reconciliation and unity, but it should also have abolished long ago evil fascist laws, including the National Security Law, unbecoming for the North-South talks.

Talking about the arrival of an age of reconciliation and cooperation only in words while keeping in place an evil law against reconciliation, cooperation, and reunification is in practice opposition to a peaceful reunification based on great national unity and is an open challenge to the basic spirit of the North-South agreement.

The stark reality is that the South Korean authorities recently had a high-ranking figure openly express a negative stance on reconciliation, cooperation, and reunification by arguing that the North, although the opposite party to talks, is still an anti-state organization in legal terms or that the flag of the Republic is a symbol of fratricide.

Under no circumstances can we witness with folded arms the people being suppressed with bayonet simply because they called for national reconciliation and unity or the North-South agreement facing a grave challenge, not now or ever. Nor will our fellow countrymen in the North and South and abroad who hope for reunification condone it.

It is utterly ridiculous for the South side spokesman to hold our side accountable for the consequences of undermining the agreement.

We take a serious view of the South Korean authorities' act of antagonizing the fellow countrymen in the North and suppressing the proreunification patriotic forces by associating them with us because we want to realize the cherished desire of the nation for reunification by respecting and implementing the agreement at all costs.

Only those who are bent on raising obstacles to the implementation of the North-South agreement can pick a fight with our just act.

Practically speaking, it is the South Korean authorities who find the implementation of the North-South agreement unpalatable. It was the South Korean authorities who mercilessly suppressed the aspirations for reunification that began growing among the people when the agreement was adopted and put into effect. It is none other than the South Korean authorities who cling to a deliberate delaying tactic in the venue of the North-South talks, including an official announcement on shelving the implementation of the agreement under the absurd pretext of the nonexistent nuclear development in the North, and who cling to an impediment to the adoption of an annexed agreement.

The South Korean authorities' reference to somebody's responsibility for having undermined the agreement or a warning is nothing but a disclosure of their brazen-faced attempt to avoid implementing the agreement and blame us as they did in the early 1970's. It is, however, a fruitless effort.

They are asked to reply to the following: Is being hostile to the fellow countrymen and suppressing the proreunification people by mobilizing police forces while shelving the North-South agreement being sincere to the implementation of the agreement? Or is the call for opening a broad road to reunification on the strength of the united effort of the nation aspiring for reunification after eliminating the evil antinational law that stands in the way of reconciliation and unity between the North and South being sincere to the implementation of the agreement?

Even a three-year-old toddler can easily give an answer to this question. As long as the South side maintains the National Security Law, which defines us as the enemy and suppresses the patriotic forces advocating national reconciliation and unity and reunification at the point of bayonet, it has no face to talk about sincerity in implementing the agreement, no matter how eloquent it may be.

The South side must respect and implement with sincerity the North-South agreement, though belatedly. As an expression of its will to translate its resolve into action as such, the South side should abolish the National Security Law, an evil antireunification law, and discontinue the suppression directed at the youth, students, and people presently engaged in the movement for reunification.

Paper Stresses Building Socialism, Communism

SK2505064892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0525 GMT 25 May 92

["To Direct Preferential Efforts To Capturing Ideological Fortress Is Basic Demand in Building Socialism and Communism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 85 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday comes out with a by-lined article titled "To Direct Preferential Efforts To Capturing Ideological Fortress Is Basic Demand in Building Socialism and Communism."

The article notes that one of the most important ideas put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his classical work "Let Us Bring the Advantages of Socialism in our Country Into Full Play" is the theory on upholding the banner of socialism, strengthening the driving force of the revolution and enhancing its role by directing preferential efforts to the work on securing the ideological fortress and thus powerfully pushing ahead with the building of socialism and communism.

It quotes Comrade Kim Il-song as teaching:

"We must direct our efforts preferentially to the work of securing the ideological fortress and develop all the members of society into people of a communist type who have acquired a high level of ideological consciousness of independence and creative ability, and we must make the whole society a communist collective based on comradeship."

The strategic goal of building socialism and communism is to capture the ideological fortress and the material fortress. Efforts must be directed preferentially to the work of securing the ideological fortress out of these two. It is an important principle that must be strictly adhered to in building socialism and communism.

Explaining that priority must be given to the scaling of the ideological fortress because it is an undertaking of building the driving force of the socialist and communist society and a prerequisite to a successful capturing of the material fortress, the article says:

Giving priority to the capturing of the ideological fortress is an important and responsible work for defending socialism.

In socialist society, ideology is the life and soul. As shown by the historical lessons of some countries where socialism was frustrated, when one fails to direct efforts preferentially to the work of securing the ideological fortress, the work of human remoulding for rapidly enhancing man's ideological and cultural levels and preparing the popular masses to be the driving force of the revolution and construction thinking that one can build socialism if one accelerates only economic construction, tightly holding the state power and the means of production, economic construction itself does not go well and all the domain of social life becomes stagnant.

Defending socialism is all the more important today when the imperalists are intensifying anti-socialist moves pursuing the so- called peaceful transition" strategy. If socialism is to be defended, struggle must be intensified in various aspects. What is most important is to push ahead with the struggle for capturing the ideological fortress in particular the ideologial revolution.

Socialist society can not be maintained, if the outmoded idea is revived in the minds of working people or corrupt bourgeous idea infiltrates from without owing to the neglect of the work of securing the ideological fortress, the ideological revolution.

Only when the entire people have a sound idea can socialism have invincible vitality and viability.

South Korea

Veterans To Sue U.S. Maker of Agent Orange

SK2705035092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0209 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP)—A group of South Korean Vietnam war veterans will file suit against seven U.S. producers of "Agent Orange," a defoliant widely used by America during the war, to seek compensation for people suffering from its effects, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Association of Meritorious Korean Vietnam War Veterans has already began preparing for the suits, the spokesman said.

"Vietnam war veterans in the United States and Australia received compensation through their suits against the U.S. Government and the manufacturing firms a long time ago," he said.

"Of the eight countries which fought in the Vietnam war, the Korean troops were most severely exposed to Agent Orange yet our damage was not even raised in the course of compensation," he said.

The association will get information and materials about the grave impacts of the defoliant through its members overseas and will prepare for suits for compensation in cooperation with U.S. organizations of agent orange victims.

More than 200,000 victims of the Vietnam war in the United States, Australia and New Zealand began to seek court actions against Dow Chemical and six other U.S. producers of the toxic agent from 1978 as they were struck by cancer or gave birth to deformed babies, believed to be resulting from exposure to the agent. The agent's makers agreed to pay compensation in May 1984.

Agent Orange was used by U.S. troops in Vietnam from 1962-71 to strip forest cover, although its production and sale were banned because it contained the poison dioxin.

It is believed to cause red spots on the body, indigestion, loss of memory and respiratory troubles, or even complications such as cancer, paralysis or heart attack, five to 10 years after exposure.

Dependency on U.S. Market Decreases

SK2305013692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0048 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade deficit with the United States for the first quarter of the year was nearly 1 billion U.S. dollars but its dependency on the U.S. market dwindled, sources at the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

Dependency on the U.S. market has declined from 38.7 percent in 1987 to 25.8 percent in 1991, and slid to 23.2

percent in the first quarter as Korea shifted from a U.S.-oriented export strategy, the sources said.

Korea imported 4.915 billion dollars worth of U.S. commodities and had 3.951 billion dollars of exports to the United States in January-March for a 965 million-dollar trade deficit. Based on these figures, the deficit was projected to have gone over 1 billion dollars in April.

The reason was diversification of export markets away from the United States and big inroads into the American markets by other Asian countries in recent years, according to the sources.

At the same time, the slowdown was reinforced as U.S. firms filed dumping suits against Korean exporters, notably in the steel and semiconductor sectors.

Korea had enjoyed a trade surplus with the United States until 1990, when it was 2.418 billion dollars, but experienced a 335 million-dollar deficit last year.

UNC Proposes Meeting To Discuss DMZ Incident

SK2705120492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP)—The United Nations Command [UNC] proposed Wednesday to North Korea holding the 460th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission on Friday to discuss the exchange of fire on May 22 inside the Demilitarized Zone, which left three North Korean soldiers dead and two South Korean soldiers injured.

Without a counter-offer from the North, the meeting will be held at 11 A.M. Friday [29 May] at the truce village of Panmunjom.

The UNC joint observer special investigation team said that, following inspection of the clash site, it had concluded that North Korean infiltrators were intercepted about one kilometer south of the Military Demarcation Line, north of Chorwon in Kangwon Province, on May 22.

Editorial Condemns North's Infiltration

SK2305132792 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 May 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Why Did North Korea Commit Such an Act?"]

[Text] What on earth is North Korea thinking about? The incident of North Korea's armed squad infiltrating the South side's area along the Military Demarcation Line on 22 May causes us to ask such a question. The mishap, which claimed the lives of the three North Korean soldiers and wounded a Korean soldier, can greatly undermine the development of the North-South agreement. Thus, the North Korean side should explain "why it should commit such an act."

What is the North-South basic agreement? The North-South basic agreement is aimed at building a peaceful system and opening an era of reconciliation and cooperation through a reliable mechanism capable of guaranteeing nonaggression. To this end, the North and the South pledged to abide by the current Armistice Agreement until a peaceful system is built. The North-South will to prevent a military clash is well reflected in the North-South basic agreement. However, the incident of the North Korean armed squad's infiltration precisely violated the spirit of the agreement.

Indeed, the incident is a regrettable and ominous one. If the armistice line, along which the North and the South have been standing in military confrontation, is unstable, who on earth can believe the stability of the North-South agreement? Further, if the armistice line, which should be maintained in the utmost safety to develop the North-South agreement system, is used for espionage infiltration in a bid to disturb the rear of the South Korean society, this is unreasonable, indeed. North Korea should be held responsible for infiltrating an armed squad and thus causing the mishap.

As one of the measures to take responsibility for the incident, the North Korean side should immediately come to a Military Armistice Commission [MAC] meeting to conduct a joint investigation of this incident. If the infiltration of the North Korean armed squad, the gunshots of the armed squad, and the identification of the armed squad are confirmed as clear facts after a joint investigation, North Korea should take due measures. If North Korea does not punish those who planned and led this incident, we cannot expect a sincere attitude from the North Korean side.

At the North-South talks, South Korea has not referred to the "Aungsan incident," the bombing of the Korean Airline plane, or North Korean state terrorist incidents. To develop North-South relations, South Korea has not referred to the past incidents for the time being. However, today when the North-South basic agreement has been validated, the incidents should never be overlooked. Without fail we should call North Korea to account and should take due measures. It is more important for the parties concerned to establish properly their basic stances in the North-South joint committees than to reach a few agreements.

To correctly reveal the responsibility for this incident, a MAC meeting should be held as soon as possible. If the North Korean side refuses to hold a MAC meeting on the grounds that the senior delegate of the UN forces side is an ROK Army general, this will be nothing but the avoidance of its responsibility.

At the same time, we urge our government to take thorough measures to prevent such a mishap as the North Korean armed squad's infiltration. The government should once again be conscious of the importance of a reliability guarantee mechanism; it should also take a stern attitude toward the North Korean side. This incident is not a matter which can be negotiated.

'Lukewarm Attitude' Toward DMZ Clash Condemned

SK2705132192 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 May 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Why Does the Government Shut Its Mouth About North Korea's Provocation in the DMZ?"]

[Text] We cannot make an immediate judgment on the background and cause of North Korea's 22 May armed provocation in the DMZ. However, some people say that the provocation was a hackneyed tactic by North Korea, which has conducted dialogue and provocation simultaneously. Others say that in the aftermath of the confrontation between the hard-line faction and the moderate faction in North Korea, the provocation was an attempt by the hard-line faction, which opposes North-South dialogue, to throw a wet blanket on the ongoing North-South dialogue.

At any rate, it is clear from evidence at the scene and circumstances that the provocation was a calculated act by the North Korean Army. It is also common knowledge that such an adventurous act by the North side cannot be perpetrated without approval or support from the North Korean authorities. In other words, it is difficult for us to foresee North Korea's provocations. No one knows when the North Korean army will commit this kind of provocation again.

However, the problem is our side's attitude in dealing with such a provocation. The step our government took after this incident was only a statement by the spokesman of the National Unification Board and the reluctant presentation of the incident at the North-South Military Joint Committee for discussions. We cannot understand our authorities' lukewarm attitude.

Regardless of North Korea's current internal situation and regardless of whether it will affect the ongoing North-South dialogue, our president and government, responsible for the people's lives and security, should have dealt harshly and strongly with such double-dealing tactics by North Korea so as to prevent their recurrence.

Nevertheless, Chongwadae has shut its mouth and looked somewhere else. A government official concerned says that "it is desirable to deal with DMZ incidents and North-South dialogue separately." How should we deal with dialogue and the North side's provocations in the DMZ separately? We cannot understand such logic.

Such remarks by the government official concerned seem, in a sense, to have something to do with the strategy that North Korea has been taking against South Korea. In other words, it seems that our strategy toward North Korea is taking after North Korea's strategy against South Korea. The differences between the two strategies, if any, are that the North's double-dealing acts give much more weight to provocations against the South side while our side's strategy gives priority to North-South dialogue. Under such a situation, our side is destined to be damaged.

Of course, we do not want this incident in the DMZ to hinder the ongoing North-South dialogue. There may be the forces opposing North-South dialogue in North Korea. However, if our government disregards the DMZ incident only out of fear that it will affect the ongoing North-South dialogue, this will send a wrong signal to North Korea encouraging it to suddenly change its present strategy toward South Korea for North-South dialogue.

We are very worried that Chongwadae will demonstrate its blindness and will not concern itself with "North Korea's test" as a result of paying more attention to making progress in the ongoing North-South dialogue. This kind of blindness and indiscretion have nothing to do with something that might occur in the last period of a regime.

5th JNCC Meeting Fails To Resolve Differences

SK2705070992 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] With the deadline for providing nuclear inspection regulations four days away, North and South Korea held the fifth meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] at Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom today and held negotiations to provide the regulations for North-South mutual inspection. The two sides, however, failed to reach agreement. Reporter Chong Chang-won reports from the National Unification Board.

[Chong Chang-won] Official announcement of the results of today's meeting have not yet been released. But at the meeting which ended a short while ago the two sides failed to narrow differences over providing the mutual inspection regulations, nor were they able to agree on the date for the next meeting. Therefore, the end of May deadline for providing the regulations has to be postponed.

Today's closed-door meeting continued longer than usual, raising hopes for good results, but the differences in the positions of the two sides were too great for them to reach an agreement.

Our side, in a keynote speech at today's meeting, noted that the deadline for the mutual inspection regulations, which the two sides have agreed on, is unlikely to be met because of the North side's insincere attitude and strongly urged that the two sides begin discussing the inspection regulations as soon as possible. The North side adhered to its previous position, saying that it cannot begin discussing the inspection regulations unless the annexed implementation agreement is discussed at the same time. The North side also shifted blame onto our side for failure to reach agreement on the ground that our side has not prepared the implementation agreement, thus revealing their unwillingness to reach agreement.

Our side then noted that the general feeling of the international community is that the inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is not sufficient to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and stressed that, to dispel suspicion about North Korea's nuclear development, North-South mutual inspection is essential and the improvement in North-South relations is impossible without resolving the nuclear issue.

In response, the North side said that the issue of the inspection by the IAEA is irrelevant to the work of the JNCC and that the South side is raising an obstacle to the talks with this issue, thereby stubbornly rejecting the special inspection system which our side called for.

As the North and the South failed to narrow their differences today with the deadline for the inspection regulations only a few days away, it is doubtful whether the mutual inspection, which was expected to be some time in the middle of June, will be made at all.

Talks Scheduled on Separated Family Visits

SK2505041992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—The government plans to talk North Korea into allowing separated family members to stay together during their reunions in Pyongyang and Seoul in August.

"We will negotiate with the North on allowing visitors to actually travel to the homes of their relatives during the coming exchange of visitors so that the visits become genuine hometown visits," a government official said over the weekend.

If this were impossible, then the visitors should at least share board and lodging with their relatives during their brief visits to Seoul and Pyongyang so that they could have as many hours together as possible, he said.

The official said that this and other issues related to the visits would be discussed at a meeting of the South-North Korean Exchanges and Cooperation Subcommittee May 30 at Panmunjom.

In 1985, during the only other visit, members of separated families could meet their relatives only briefly in public places in Seoul and Pyongyang and were not permitted to visit their hometowns.

South and North Korea agreed early this month to exchange 100 separated family members from each side for several days' stay in Seoul and Pyongyang on Liberation Day, Aug. 15, to meet with their relatives.

They will be accompanied by 70-member troupes of performing artists and 70 press and support people from each side.

The official also said that the government would allow members of Yi In-mo's family to meet the 76-year-old former North Korean war correspondent if they came to Seoul in August.

"In view of the North's strong wish for Yi's repatriation to the North, it is likely that Yi's wife and children will come to Seoul as North Korean visitors in August," he said.

Yi was in prison until the late 1980s because he refused to change his allegiance to North Korea. He was captured while a guerrilla fighter following his participation in the Korean war as a correspondent.

The Korean National Red Cross, which will handle procedural matters for the visits, is expected to hold a meeting of related officers this week to determine the criterion for the selection of visitors.

The Red Cross reportedly plans to propose a working-level meeting with North Korea on the issue.

Ministry Announces $50,000 Contribution to UN

SK2305071692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has pledged a 50,000-U.S.-dollar donation to the United Nation's Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The fund, approximately 50 million dollars in size, is used for immediate aid to disaster-stricken areas and is refunded after official assistance is prepared.

The emergency fund was operated by the office of the U.N. disaster relief coordinator since 1972, and was expanded by the General Assembly in December last year.

Trade With SRV Step Toward Diplomatic Ties

SK2705120092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0725 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP)—Investment in Vietnam by South Korean enterprises will take off when bilateral diplomatic ties improve, Finance Ministry officials said Wednesday.

Korean businesses have received government permission to invest 8.16 million U.S. dollars in seven projects, according to the ministry officials. If venture applications are included, the amount is expected to total about 80 million dollars in 16 cases during the first half of this year, an official said.

The ministry anticipates that trade representative offices will be set up in the capitals of Vietnam and Korea before long as the two sides recently agreed to the exchange, a step toward cementing diplomatic relations.

If Seoul and Hanoi establish diplomatic ties, not only will Korean firms press hard to advance into Vietnam but will take part in economic development projects there through governmental consultation, a ministry official said.

"If the investment guarantee and other economic agreements are concluded between the two countries as well, the size per investment is sure to become large," the official maintained.

Seoul Likely To Release 75% of Loans to CIS

SK2305025192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea is likely to release in July, at the earliest, 75 percent of the loans to the Soviet Union that it suspended after the union's disintegration, Korean officials here said Friday.

The likelihood followed a bilateral agreement on a repayment guarantee reached between a Korean delegation headed by Assistant Finance Minister Yi Hwan-kyon and officials of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, they said.

Under the agreement, Russia succeeds the entire liabilities of the Soviet Union in the case that all the former Soviet republics are unable to repay them. If a few republics fail to pay, Russia will take responsibility for the repayment along with other republics which are capable of sharing the burden.

Yi said Russia will give a written guarantee to that effect to Korea shortly. Russia would also deliver to Korea a document guaranteeing the repayment of 800 million U.S. dollars in tied loans for consumer goods, along with another official note confirming the legal status of Vneshekonombank, the Russian export-import bank, as the debtor.

When the agreement was put into practice, Korea would release to Russia 75 percent of the 350 million dollars in tied loans for consumer goods held back last year and 1.2 billion dollars in the tied loan and deferred-payment plant exports for 1992-93, Korean officials said.

The Korean delegation was told that Russia could not pay the interest for cash loans on the promised dates, May 18 and 19, due to its own financial difficulties and its agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Group of Seven industrialized countries and the Paris club, under which interest should not be paid to a specific country.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Shokhin told the Koreans, however, that his government would work out a repayment formula that might satisfy the Korean government "in the near future."

Assistant minister Yi said Russia would have no difficulty in paying the interest once the IMF released financial stabilization funds and the price of oil was liberalized.

Korea promised to render a 3 billion-dollar package of economic assistance to the Soviet Union in January last year. The package comprises 1 billion dollars of bank loans, 1.5 billion dollars of tied loans and 500 million dollars of credits for plant exports.

Although the Korean demand for a 100-percent guarantee of repayment from Russia and a timetable for interest payment was not met, Yi said the latest bilateral agreement reflected it to a considerable extent.

Russia will send a working-level delegation to Seoul in mid-June to convey official documents on repayment guarantee and interest payment, Korean officials said.

Soviet Bank Unable To Pay Loan Interest

SK2705070292 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 25 May 92 p 1

[Text] The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) reportedly has notified Seoul that it would not be able to settle interest payments on time for the $1 billion in bank loans extended by Korea to the former USSR.

The payments were due on May 18 and 19.

In a telegram to the London-based affiliate of the creditor bank, the Korea Development Bank, the Vneshekonombank (Soviet bank for foreign economic trade) expressed its regrets, saying that it could not make payment for the interest on time, banking sources here said.

Noting that it had received due payments only from the Russian Republic, the Soviet bank pledged to settle the payments immediately after it received the funds from other CIS republics, the sources revealed.

Due to the delay in interest payments, it would be difficult for Korea to resume tied lending and other forms of economic aid to the CIS, they said.

Government To Promote Energy Resources in Russia

SK2305052392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia have agreed to establish a Korea-Russia joint energy resources cooperation committee to promote joint development of energy resources in Russia.

Energy and Resources Minister Chin Nyom exchanged a protocol on creation of the committee and an auxiliary memorandum with Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Vladimir Lopukhin in Moscow on Friday, the Energy and Resources Ministry said Saturday.

The protocol said that, through the committee to be led by both countries's energy ministers, the two sides would consult on energy issues, expand trade of energy resources such as coal and uranium, and cooperate in exploring for mineral goods.

Other Parties React to Kim Tae-chung Nomination

SK2605093892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Tuesday congratulated Kim Tae-chung on his nomination as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate at its national convention.

"The DLP congratulates Kim Tae-chung on becoming his party's presidential candidate. We hope that Kim, who together with DLP candidate Kim Yong-sam has walked a thorny path to democracy, fights fairly in the election," DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said.

The Unification National Party [UNP] expressed deep concern at the resurgence of deep-seated regional hatred, saying the nomination had added the fuel of provincialism to the fight between the two Kims.

Race Between Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung Viewed

SK2705010692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 May 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] The presidential election, due some time between mid-December this year and mid-January in 1993, seems to be setting up Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung.

Though the country's military regimes severely suppressed them, the two Kims survived all of Korea's political troubles and now will come to do genuine battle for the Chief Executive's post in rival camps.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], was put on the government party ticket for the coming election in a convention a week ago, and Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Democratic Party [DP], was put up as the nominee of his main opposition party yesterday.

Each of the two Kims will have their best chance ever to achieve their long-cherished ambition this time.

Chong Chu-yong of the second opposition Unification National Party [UNP], Pak Chang-chong of the splinter New Party for Political Reform, and one or two others will also stand but they appear to be playing little more than the role of spoilers, analysts say.

Kim Yong-sam, popularly called Y-S, is now cashing in on the "advantages" of being in the ruling camp—the immense bureaucratic network and lavish funding by big entrepreneurs, which have been long monopolized by those in power, in addition to the vast party network of the DLP.

He is generally favored by the middle class that hopes for gradual reform in a country where the majority of its people think they belong to the middle class.

Kim Tae-chung, or D-J, represents a virtually unified opposition force which proved its support had expanded in the March 24 Assembly vote and secured a formidable say in the 14th National Assembly that opens later this week.

D-J has a formidable stronghold in his native Cholla provinces and Kwangju accounting for almost 30 percent of the entire electorate that might be very helpful to his victory, given the dogfighting between Y-S, Chong and (if he runs) Yi Chong-chan, former DLP nomination contender, because their support bases overlap.

Throughout their long and assiduous struggle against military dictators for three decades, the two Kims have established a firm and broad reputation in and outside their native cities and provinces, though their younger rivals' slogans for a shift of the generations is increasingly appealing.

Yet they face some adverse conditions.

"The December vote will be a neck-and-neck race. Triumph or defeat will depend on how the two Kims turn the difficulties into their favor," one political analyst said.

First of all, Kim Yong-sam has to mend fences with Yi Chong-chan's followers who gave Yi 33 percent of the vote in an "open contest" with Y-S despite the latter boycotting the race because President No Tae-u allegedly fixed the results against him.

He also has to attract to his side gigantic "pro-government" organizations—military, police, intelligence agencies and other state-financed groups, for example, some of which are still displeased with his 37 years as an oppositionist that ended with his merger with No's minority party two years ago.

Another task facing Y-S is maintaining his personal popularity of the past and shoring up the plunging image of the ruling camp. He is showing signs of distancing himself from the No administration in a cautious step.

Kim Tae-chung has worn a broad smile and bright-colored necktie and a handkerchief in his pocket of his jacket from time to time, all in a gesture to soften his radical image. He has employed a group of experts—including a make-up artist and former film director—to correct his hawkish image, carved in the days of his hard-fought pro-democracy protests.

The populist leader has to woo the middle and upper-middle class by all means. He has refrained from taking to the streets and attending mass rallies no matter how righteous their cause and has spoken out on measures to counteract soaring prices and the business downturn in a moderate rather than hectoring tone.

His efforts are paying off to some extent, according to opinion polls taken by his party.

D-J has to ward off antagonistic feeling outside his Honam area. While calling on voters to put an end to the sway of government by the "T-K (Taegu and Kyongsang-puk-to) clique," he is working for the expansion of his regional stronghold.

Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung competed with each other for the state helm in December 1987 amid hot criticism for their failure to put up a single candidate against No Tae-u.

* Kim Il-song's Leadership, Power Transfer Eyed

922C0147A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 14, 15, 17 Apr 92

[Article in three installments by reporter Pak Che-kyun and four overseas correspondents: "Forty-Seven Years of the Kim Il-song Kingdom"]

[14 Apr 92 p 5]

[By Pak Che-kyun: "His 'Political Skill and Deification' Made Him the Longest-Reigning Ruler"]

[Text] "Considering the fact that for as long as 40-odd years since Liberation, Kim Il-song has reigned over North Korea with absolute power, leading it without any serious crisis to his leadership, we cannot but give him credit for his outstanding political skill and capability."

This was a recent comment by a North Korea expert at a South Korean government-financed research institute.

At a time when the socialist governments have all but disappeared, including those of the former Soviet Union and East European countries, North Korea continues its solid existence, adhering to its "our way of socialism." Especially, with the 80th birthday of President Kim Il-song being celebrated tomorrow, it is as busy as ever preparing for the traditional festivities. Then, what is the secret that enabled Kim Il-song to last that long?

Much has been said about the Stalinist control by intelligence activities and political purges by him. With that alone, however, it seems difficult to explain his long-term rule.

To prove it, the socialist regimes in Albania and Romania, which had been equally notorious for their rule by intelligence activities and concentration camps, have already fallen.

Judging from stories told by those who visited North Korea and refugees from there, a large majority of the North Korean people undoubtedly have no dissatisfaction deep enough to turn against the present system, although they might not be as happy as the "We Are Happy" propaganda slogan might suggest.

Why? Many experts find an answer in the religious instinct of people and in Kim Il-song's ability to exploit it deftly.

In religion, present hardships promise future rewards. Especially, when the difficulty is shared by all, the significance of the promise for the future becomes that much greater.

For the North Korean people, the promise is a "society where all the people can enjoy meals of rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes and live in tile-roofed houses." Seldom exposed to opportunities to experience a "sense of relative deprivation" and sharing difficulties among themselves, they endure present economic ordeals by pinning their hopes on the promised future.

It must be solely because of their trust in President Kim Il-song that the North Korean people continue to pin their hopes on a future that has not come true in 40-odd years.

This trust, which is near a religious faith, can be viewed as the fruition of a personality cult that the Kim Il-song regime has established over the long period since Liberation. In fact, however, the personality cult was initiated by the military administration of the former Soviet Union, not the Kim Il-song side.

On 14 October 1945, a "Pyongyang City Mass Rally to Welcome General Kim Il-song" was held.

Participants in that rally cried out "He is a fake! Not the real General Kim Il-song." Their cries sent Soviet military government authorities, who sought to put Kim Il-song in power, into a flurry.

Then, they printed and distributed a P.R. pamphlet, "The Hero's Family Line" and launched a publicity campaign to explain why the young man in his early thirties and former captain in the Soviet Army whose real name was Kim Song-chu was General Kim Il-song.

The program was subsequently turned over to the Kim Il-song side and, as a result, the "myth" was created of Kim Il-song being an absolute being never erring under any circumstances.

The adoration drive for Kim Il-song kept escalating, eventually to a full-scale glorification of his lineage beginning in the latter half of the 1960's.

According to some analysts, Kim Il-song employed a Christian doctrine in the process of establishing the "unitary ideology" system like this. It is said that the first person who thought of it was the Rev. Kang Yang-uk, a second cousin of Kang Ton-uk, Kim Il-song's maternal grandfather.

Kang Yang-uk was an influential figure, who—in the "North Korea People's Committee," the predecessor of the North Korean Government formed in February 1946—had served as secretary general, a position only next to Kim Il-song and Kim Tu-pong, chairman and vice chairman of that committee, respectively. It is said that the Rev. Kang hit on the idea of rephrasing "the Heavenly Father" in the Bible into "Kim Il-song the Father" and this kindled the Kim Il-song personality cult.

It is also said that Kim Il-song's father, Kim Hyong-chik, was a Christian, too, who attended the Pyongyang College of Theology, and this inevitably gave Kim Il-song Christian influence.

At any rate, efforts to establish the unitary ideology system thus bore fruits and the "Principle for the Establishment of the Unitary Ideology System" was adopted at the 17th plenum of the fourth party Central Committee in April 1968. The essence of this principle is that "the whole party will complete its ideological arming with the revolutionary ideology of the political leader."

The "unitary ideology" was thus established as the party ideology surpassing the level of a personality cult.

The unitary ideology system had too much of a religious color to be a party or state institution, however. At the same time, it was not in consistency with the orthodox Marxism-Leninism. Therefore, the Kim Il-song regime needed something that could replace the unitary ideology and Marxism-Leninism at the same time.

Thus came the "chuche ideology."

The chuche ideology is based on the philosophical principle that "man is the master of everything and everything is determined by man." According to the "principle of historical development," its basic theory, "the working masses are the subject of history and the driving force of social development."

Since the working people cannot individually become the subject of historical development, it explains, they "must unite in one ideology and one organization under the leadership of the leader" if they are to become "the self-reliant chuche of the revolution."

By this logic, the chuche ideology embraces—in a seemingly natural manner—"the leader theory."

According to that theory, "the leader" does not mean the head of a collective or state but a central organ of the state. In other words, Kim Il-song is already over and above a biological existence; he is a pivotal organ of the state.

Kim Il-song put the chuche ideology with such substance into a statutory form at the fifth party congress in November 1970, with the party constitution revised at the congress stipulating that the party "takes the great chuche ideology of Comrade Kim Il-song as the guiding principle of its activity."

Marxism-Leninism—the guiding ideology that had led North Korea since Liberation—and the unitary ideology were thus combined and rearranged into the chuche ideology and Kim Il-song laid a near perfect ideological foundation for himself.

Experts observe that Kim Il-song added to it the Oriental thoughts of loyalty and filial piety plus patriarchy, making it even firmer as an ideological system. In other words, through the Oriental thoughts, Kim Il-song succeeded in inducing the people's spontaneous "loyalty" and "filial piety" to him as their leader and father.

Meanwhile, in order for President Kim Il-song to build a monolithic system like that, there was a prerequisite for him to meet, i.e., North Korea kept as closed society.

He had to see to it that the North Korean people are shielded from any opportunities that may bring them to compare their life and their leaders with those in other countries. President Kim Il-song, therefore, kept the walls high since the establishment of his regime.

The situation began changing in the latter half of the 1980's, however.

The severe economic crunch pressured Pyongyang into "opening in part" to the outside world. One cannot rule out the possibility of such a partial opening often leading to a "full-scale opening-up," and even to "disintegration of system." Consequently, North Korea lately has been taking great pains to consolidate its internal unity in preparation for the opening-up. Concerns at home and abroad are focused on the outcome of that effort.

[15 Apr 92 p 5]

[By Pak Che-kyun: "Process of Power Transfer to Kim Chong-il Gaining Momentum"]

[Text] Today is the 80th birthday of President Kim Il-song, who has reigned over North Korea as an absolute monarch for more than half his life.

Pyongyang is covered with flowers and massive celebrations are under way marking what North Korea calls "the nation's biggest holiday."

As if to whip up the festive mood, North Korea made President Kim Il-song a "generalissimo" on 13 April.

North Korean general officer ranks consist of major general, lieutenant general, colonel general, general, vice marshal and marshal, upward in that order.

The creation of the new rank for Kim Il-song appears to be a step for him to yield the marshal rank to Party Secretary Kim Chong-il. For Kim Il-song, the generalissimo title means in effect a greater honor but less power.

Although a mere instance, it could be viewed as directly foreshadowing a future change in President Kim Il-song's status.

Discussion of his future can be based on two cases, one presupposing that the transfer of power is carried out during his lifetime and the other that it is not.

Rumors circulating since early this year had it that he would yield presidency to his son before the 80th birthday.

Originally, it had been thought that the power transfer would take place in 1993 or 1994. The time was radically moved up when North Korea made Kim Chong-il the supreme commander of the armed forces on 24 December last year.

Article 93 of the North Korean "Socialist Constitution" provides that "the president serves as the supreme commander of the armed forces and chairman of the National Defense Commission and commands all the armed forces of the country."

Therefore, speculations that Kim Chong-il, now the supreme commander, would soon inherit presidency were well founded under the existing constitution.

Moreover, Article 90 of the North Korean constitution, vesting the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] with authority to elect the president, fueled rumors that the succession might take place at the third session of the ninth SPA held on 8-10 April.

As is known, there were no references to the succession issue at that session, however.

On the contrary, it was said that the session, unlike the usual annual session, took steps to revise part of the constitution. This gave rise to speculations that North Korea—instead of carrying out the succession—may have revised the constitutional provisions concerning the presidency and the office of the supreme military commander, which were originally to be served concurrently.

In fact, North Korean authorities had consistently denied the rumored succession plan since early this year, asserting that "Comrade Kim Chong-il is already 'the leader.' Therefore, there is no compelling reason why his succession to the presidency has to be carried out before President Kim Il-song dies."

Their argument is largely on the grounds that since the president is the "face" of the country, President Kim Il-song's prestige and authority, among other things, makes the succession prior to his death difficult.

On the other hand, it is being speculated that he will yield the post of party general secretary to Kim Chong-il. In North Korea where "the party is the state," it is a post more powerful than the presidency.

The party general secretary is elected at a plenum of the party Central Committee in accordance with Article 24 of the Constitution of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK]. Since a plenum of the party Central Committee can be convened at any time, the succession to the office of party general secretary is simpler in procedures.

At the same time, the party constitution defines the scope of fundamental matters to be determined at a party congress duly convened, however. This includes decisions on fundamental issues involving the party line and policy and its strategy and tactics as well as adoption or revision of party programs and the party constitution. Therefore, experts observe, the election of party general secretary—who represents the "brain" of all policy decisions of the party—can satisfy the norm prescribed by the party constitution only when it is carried out at a WPK congress.

Nevertheless, it seems to be still premature to rule out the possibility of Kim Chong-il taking over not only as party general secretary but president as well before Kim Il-song dies.

The reason is that there is a need for Kim Il-song to back up his son, who is still short in charisma, with his "glory" for some more time. Also, there is the example set by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

Especially, President Kim Il-song is known to be deeply impressed by the Chinese example in state management, as China is, far from collapsing as other socialist governments did, continuing its advances. Consequently, for his long, close relationship with Deng, it is considered not impossible, they say, that he will follow Deng's example by retiring officially.

On the other hand, also spreading lately are speculations that there will be no transfer of power before he dies.

The succession while Kim Il-song is alive, they argue, is something incompatible with sentiments of the North Korean people and bureaucrats who have lived under "the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song" for more than 40 years. Kim Il-song is well aware of it, they say, and will therefore be against taking an "unnatural step."

They also argue that for the inherent nature of absolute power, it is difficult to expect the holder of that power to transfer it before he dies, even if it is to his son.

In this case, the processes of transfer occurring all at once following Kim Il-song's death will involve risks of triggering shocks and protests, however.

To minimize the shocks, they say, President Kim Il-song has yielded the supreme military commander post and the marshal rank and to Kim Chong-il one by one.

At the same time, they observe, Kim Il-song is trying to turn over the power concentrated on him to state organs such as the SPA and the State Administration Council gradually and thereby to "institutionalize" it. Needless to say, such institutionalization is aimed at ensuring stability when Kim Chong-il takes over.

In this connection, it has been confirmed that technocrats in the State Administration Council lately have increased their say over economic issues. Also, the fact that the nuclear safeguards agreement, normally subject to ratification by President Kim Il-song, was finalized with the SPA's "approval" is indicative of the SPA's increasing authority.

Regardless of a formal Kim Il-song-to-Kim Chong-il succession, it is expected that the shifting of real power to the latter will gain momentum in the future. The biggest factor determining the speed in this process will be Kim Il-song's health.

Nonetheless, a prevailing observation is that the real power, except major policy decisions on military diplomacy with the South, have largely been turned over to Kim Chong-il. Especially, the task of dealing with the economic crisis, an issue of life or death for North Korea, now totally belongs to the domain of Kim Chong-il, according to this observation.

So, President Kim Il-song may be a happy man today satisfied with the "kingdom" he has built, as crowds of people congratulate him and colorful celebrations go on.

[17 Apr 92 p 5]

[By overseas correspondents: "Views of the Four Major Nations with Interests in Korea"]

[Text] Addressing a "celebration banquet" on 15 April marking his 80th birthday, President Kim Il-song announced the establishment of Kim Chong-il, his son, as successor for the first time officially.

How is the hereditary succession and the future of the Kim Chong-il leadership viewed at the capitals of major nations? Following is a roundup.

The United States:

While the North Korean succession issue would occasionally become a topic at academic sessions, the U.S. Government has never taken, or laid an emphasis on, any official position about it.

State Department officials would comment privately that "since Kim Chong-il is not very well known to the outside world, his leadership could contain unpredictable elements for the West." At the moment, they are concerned about the possibility of his debut stirring instability and uncertainty anew on the Korean peninsula.

With regard to North Korea, Washington is most concerned about its external activities driven by domestic problems rather than the domestic problems themselves, and the impact of such activities upon neighboring countries. Consequently, the nuclear weapons, arms export and terrorism issues have emerged as matters of primary concern to Washington.

Officials explain that once the two sides could ease differences over these issues, other topics such as democracy and power transfer could come on the table of contact between the two sides. An informed diplomatic source in Washington said that "at the moment, the United States sees North Korea largely from a realistic viewpoint. It is no time yet to engage in an ideological debate with it." (Nam Chan-sun, Washington)

Russia:

North Korean experts in Russia are unanimous in saying that Kim Chong-il will sooner or later succeed Kim Il-song and become North Korea's new ruler. According to (Yuri Banin), who is in charge of Korean and Mongolian affairs at the eastern studies institute of the Academy of Sciences, since Kim Il-song is still in good health and controls North Korea's power structure, the transfer of power is neither an issue of "today or tomorrow" nor an issue of "a near future," however.

Meanwhile, other experts are more concerned about the impact of the Kim Chong-il succession on North Korea's domestic and foreign policies, assuming that the succession will soon take place.

IZVESTIYA International News Bureau Chief (Nadein) predicts that although the dictator's retirement is not likely to directly lead to changes in North Korean institutions, "Kim Il-song's demise will no doubt arouse opposition forces from sleep."

(Arkadiy Butritskiy), international news bureau chief of the communist newspaper (NARODNAYA GAZETTE), compares today's North Korea to the Stalin-era Soviet Union, saying that the Kim Il-song-to-Kim Chong-il power transfer could trigger disintegration of the dictatorship.

(Banin) of the Far Eastern Affairs Institute also says that when Kim Il-song retires, Kim Chong-il will be the successor. But Kim Chong-il will be unable to hold the reigns for long, he notes, and technocrats in the military or the WPK will come to seize power. (Chang Haeng-hun, Moscow)

China:

China came up with the highest-level expression of friendship by sending Yang Shangkun, president of the state, to Pyongyang to celebrate Kim Il-song's 80th birthday. CHINA NEWS, a government-run newspaper for overseas Chinese, reported that President Yang's visit will further promote the traditional friendship between the two countries.

It has been known that North Korean authorities might take this opportunity and offer specific explanations to the Chinese side about the father-to-son hereditary succession. In the foreign policy area, China has been stressing noninterference in domestic affairs; furthermore, it does not want to see North Korea internationally isolated or its prestige damaged to any serious extent. Therefore, according to analyses, China will at least refrain from opposing explicitly the hereditary succession should it materialize soon. (Yi Yong-kun, Hong Kong)

Japan:

The general view in Japan is that with North Korea conferring the "generalissimo" title on President Kim Il-song on 13 April, the process of power transfer to his son, Party Secretary Kim Chong-il, is now well under way on a predetermined course.

The commercial television network TBS said on 13 April that the new title created for Kim Il-song appears to be an "honorary" one, and that the action seems to be for paving the way to lift Kim Chong-il to the "marshal" rank, in addition to the People's Army supreme commander post which he already holds, and thus to the top military position both in name and reality. Of the three pillars of the North Korean power structure, the transfer of control over the military has thus been virtually completed and the remaining question, TBS noted, is when the office of party general secretary and the presidency are turned over to Kim Chong-il.

A NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN report on 16 April differed with TBS, however, contending that events in the 15 April birthday celebrations in Pyongyang confirmed that Kim Il-song will—against earlier predictions—retain the office of party general secretary and presidency and that at the moment, it is difficult to say when their transfer will come. (Yi Nak-yon, Tokyo)

* North Puts 'Tighter Control' on Intellectuals

922C0150A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 25 Apr 92 p 9

[Article by reporter Han Myong-kyu: "Winds of Control Over Intellectuals in the Period of Power Transition"]

[Text] Attention has been aroused by reports that North Korea has begun enforcing "tighter control" of intellectuals in what may be called an "extraordinary step" as it enters the period of power transition from Kim Il-song to Kim Chong-il.

On 22 April Radio Pyongyang reported that "there is a large army of intellectuals of 1.6 million strong in our country," stressing that "under the leadership of the party, the leader, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, the problem concerning the duality of character of intellectuals has been solved once and for all."

Noting that the bourgeois and proletarian propensities represent the "intellectuals' duality of character," the same broadcast declared that by indoctrinating and remolding intellectuals through the party's policy on intellectuals, North Korea has done away with their bourgeois propensities and brought them up as fine socialistic intellectuals."

Proof that North Korea is particularly nervous about intellectuals was provided at the "national forum on the chuche ideology" marking the 80th birthday (15 April) of President Kim.

Each of the total 16 different subjects was discussed only once except the question of intellectuals, which was taken up twice.

Speaking at the forum, Hong Il-chon (president of the Kim Pom-chik Teachers College) said: "Intellectuals have little chance of steeling themselves in the revolutionary way through collective life because of the peculiarities of their work, but on the other hand, they have plenty of opportunities to come into contact with bourgeois and various other reactionary ideologies infiltrating from the outside. For this reason, unless the question of outmoded ideologies is solved quickly, there is room for them to get contaminated by various evil ideologies." His speech thus expressed the apprehensions of the North Korean ruling circles about intellectuals.

While claiming that it has solved the problem of intellectuals, North Korea is not relaxing its guard against intellectuals. This stems from the lesson that intellectuals were the origins of both the Tiananmen incident in China and the perestroyka policy in the former Soviet Union.

Branding the reform policies of the former Soviet Union and China as "revisionism," Secretary Kim Chong-il stressed that [in these countries] the process of degeneration of socialism has accelerated by introducing capitalism under the pretext of reforming and restructuring socialism."

Therefore, the recent forum on the chuche ideology may be interpreted as a strong warning against the stratum of intellectuals.

Apparently, it was in the same vein that a North Korean broadcast on 4 April said that in the past President Kim crushed the antiparty and counterrevolutionary elements in order to preserve the purity of the revolutionary tradition, and that today the revolutionary tradition is being succeeded and developed by Secretary Kim Chong-il.

What may be classified as intellectuals in North Korea include, among others, diplomats, students abroad, workers abroad, and administrative/technical bureaucrats.

There is the possibility that these people will turn into forces critical to the regime because they have plenty of opportunities to come into contact with information on foreign countries and are intelligent enough to compare realities in China, Russia, or South Korea with those in North Korea.

They are classified as a "new middle class" by scholars, and their number and role are seen growing rapidly in North Korea.

Statistics show that intellectuals or a new middle class accounted for only 6.2 percent [of the population] as of the end of 1946, but their number as a percentage [of the population] grew to 17 percent in 1987.

Currently, the expert-elite class accounts for 30 to 40 percent of the State Administration Council and the Workers Party and 50 percent of the full members and 70 percent of the candidate members of the Political Bureau. In the occupational composition of deputies to the Supreme People Assembly, the number of workers and farmers is gradually decreasing whereas members with administrative and professional backgrounds are increasing sharply.

Unlike capitalism, which views the growth of the middle class as the foundation of social stability, the North Korean ruling class seems to feel a sense of crisis, fearing that a marked growth of the middle class might become a cause of collapse of socialism.

Given the peculiarities of the North Korean Establishment, intellectuals cannot seek their own class interests, and in fact, they have no choice but to remain in their status as helpers who serve the interests of the working class.

According to the chuche theory on intellectuals, "the distinctions between the working class and intellectuals will disappear as society becomes revolutionalized, working-classified, and intellectualized."

The stability of the Kim Chong-il establishment may depend, as North Korea says, on "human remolding," but whether or not such kind of human experiment will succeed is still a moot question.

Burma

Muslim Rebels Allegedly Hampering Repatriation

BK2405150892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between the leaders of Burma and Bangladesh, preparations were made for the systematic scrutiny and reception of Burmese nationals who fled to Bangladesh. Thus, five reception centers in Burma have been prepared to receive the returnees since 15 May.

Burma presented the list of accepted returnees to Bangladesh on 17 May after scrutinizing the list given by Bangladesh on 14 May.

It has been learned that no one has been released to the Burmese side until today in accordance with those lists and it has also been learned that Bangladesh has not sent another repatriation list since that date.

During the coordination meeting, there were a few who left Burma for Bangladesh. Their reasons for leaving were because of the Rohingya Solidarity Organization and Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front terrorist insurgent organizations' threat and unlawful instigation. They have also used threats against those who wish to return to Burma.

Bangladesh 'Unable' To Give Repatriation Date

BK2705092492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between the leaders of Myanmar [Burma] and Bangladesh, preparations were made for the systematic scrutiny and reception of Burmese nationals who fled to Bangladesh. A meeting between a 12-member group of officials from Bangladesh led by Cox's Bazar District Administrative Chief Mr. Dauduzzaman Chowdhury and a 10-member delegation of Myanmar [Burmese] officials led by U Aung Sein, director of Immigration and Manpower Department, was held at the Maungdaw Communications Enterprise Guest House at 1320 on 25 May.

At the meeting, the Myanmar side discussed the repatriation program and the repatriation date of the first 6,400 persons, whom the Myanmar side had presented in a list of accepted scrutinized persons. The Bangladesh side discussed matters related to the continuing search for people evading repatriation and would give information on the repatriation date later. The Myanmar side presented a second list of persons already scrutinized and accepted for return—5,025 persons from Maungdaw Township and 5,012 persons from Buthidaung Township. The Myanmar side again presented another set of the first list of 6,400 persons who had already been scrutinized and accepted.

The five reception centers in Myanmar have been prepared to receive the returnees since 15 May.

Myanmar has made plans and formed various committees to see to the food rationing, health, security, and transportation back to their homeland, for those who return. However, due to difficulties of the country on the other side, the repatriation date is still being discussed and it has been learned that the other side is unable to say when the repatriation date will be given.

Six Pa-O 'Terrorist Insurgents' Surrender

BK2505091192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Terrorist insurgents who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at Army camps. Accordingly, in the Eastern Military Command region, six privates from the SNPLO [Shan State Nationalities Pa-O Liberation Organization] terrorist insurgent organization's 1st Company, 1st Battalion, surrendered together with their six weapons on 15 and 16 May at the garrison stationed in Pekon.

Those who returned to the legal fold from the SNPLO terrorist insurgent organization were Privates Sai Nyo alias Aik Mon, Maung Sein, Maung Tu alias Aik Tu, Shar Re alias Maung Shar, Tin Aung, and Sai Thi. They brought with them two M-22 automatic rifles, two BA-64 automatic rifles, one M-21 automatic rifle, one M-23 automatic rifle, 517 rounds of assorted ammunition, one magazine round, two ammunition belts, and eight assorted magazines.

They were warmly received by the responsible officials of the garrison concerned.

Two Kachin Insurgents Surrender 14 May

BK2605060692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0430 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Lance Corporal Lataw Hkaw Lon from the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgent organization's 16th Battalion in the Northern Military Command surrendered with one BA-63 rifle and 55 rounds of ammunition and Private Lathein Law Hkawn from the 15th Battalion surrendered with one M-22 automatic rifle and 25 rounds of ammunition on 14 May at Loi Maukyang garrison.

Those who surrendered were warmly received by the authorities concerned at the garrison.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Foreign Minister Visits Kazakhstan

BK2105155192 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Malaysia is of the opinion that the new world order can only be achieved through consensus and consent and not through hegemony and outright coercion.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says all states—big and small, old and new, rich and poor have to work together so as not to miss the historic opportunity to benefit from the end of the cold war.

He said this in speech to mark his official visit to Kazakhstan. Datuk Abdullah is heading a trade delegation on a 14-day official trip to the Commonwealth of Independent States which will also include visits to the Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

The minister said that revolutionary changes in the world which took shape during the last three years have opened new opportunities to build a better world order based firmly on conciliation and the rule of law. There must be global consolidation in the next centuries since global fragmentation brings only danger to our planet. Datuk Abdullah said Malaysia is willing to share its expertise and experience, especially in areas such as agricultural development, privatization, and industrial development with the Central Asian nations. For this purpose Malaysia has established an on-going economic and technical cooperation program open to all developing countries.

The minister said Kazakhstan, which is rich in oil and gas, could have a great potential for cooperation between countries especially in the development of its resources.

Commentary Welcomes Trade Accord With Russia

BK2205125792 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 22 May 92

[Station commentary by Bosco De Cruz]

[Text] The current visit of Malaysia's Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his delegation to the Russian Republic marks the closeness in bilateral ties in economy, and developing the trade relations that had existed before the breakaway states of the former Soviet Union declared their independence.

This initial step comes in the form of a trade agreement in principle reached between Malaysia and Russia. What is significant is that the two countries agreed that future trade relations must adopt new approaches to suit the times and prevailing conditions.

Malaysia has to close a package deal whereby future trade within the two countries would be conducted by way of (?draft) facilities, direct payments, and barter trade. In case of non-payment, possibilities would be explored to call a system of bilateral payment arrangement or BPA through financial guarantors by the respective central banks. This is a practical measure, as Malaysia and Russia follow different trade procedures, which the BPA system can help to reconcile. Also it will boost the confidence of investors in both countries to conduct business with each other as guarantee of payment would be provided by the central banks. There is such a lot be gained by both countries through this package deal, especially in relation to trade, economic, and technical cooperation.

Another positive outcome of the visit is that while both countries have pledged to honor the economic and trade agreements that had been reached between Malaysia and the former Soviet Union between 1967 and 1988, they showed the need for the agreements to be reviewed and upgraded to be effective and relevant to the present situation. Many changes have been and are taking place in Russia since its declaration of independence. In its economic reconstruction, it has to adopt new methods in its trade policy, which may be vastly different to what they were before the break up of the union.

With the shortage of foreign currency, Russia is placed in a position where it has to tread cautiously in dealing with its trading partners.

Malaysia has shown flexibility making its deal with Russia. The latter has responded in equal measure. The objective is to promote and increase the trade volume which grew drastically over the past few years. To quote statistics, bilateral trade between Malaysia and the former Soviet Union flowed from US$ 281 million in 1989 to a low of US$ 126.5 million for the first five months of last year. Due (?consideration) and state of cooperation being displayed by both sides brought [word indistinct].

The current mission of the Malaysian delegation to Russia as well as the Central Asian republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States can be described as a victory in efforts to enhance bilateral relations. [Words indistinct] that it would produce positive results. bg522205.011 220800

Finance Minister Discusses Economic Policy

BK2305133592 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 2

[By Azmi M. Anshar]

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Thurs.—Malaysia's affirmative action aimed at fairer distribution of the nation's wealth under the New Economic Policy (NEP)—long subjected to severe criticisms by Western countries, particularly the United States—has proven to be positively viable in the light of the bloody Los Angeles racial riots.

Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim said today in the aftermath of the riots, the United States was beginning to talk about affirmative action, distributive justice and a concerned and caring society, actions already implemented in Malaysia.

The Government's conviction on affirmative action was based on the fact that market forces alone could not ensure equitable distribution of economic benefits.

"Unbridled capitalism will generate wealth, no doubt, but it will not prevent the growth of poverty. We have been witnessing the growth of the underclass in mature industrialised societies.

"Where whole communities feel isolated and need desperate Government assistance, let alone the wealthy, then even a tiny spark can ignite an explosion," he said when opening the three-day Second International Symposium on Interaction for Progress—Modernisation of Vietnam and ASEAN Co-operation at Holiday Villa in Subang Jaya.

Contrary to popular belief that affirmative action stifled growth, Anwar said the Malaysian economy had achieved consistently high growth rates throughout the intervening years.

"As a result, we are in a position to promote investment overseas as well as continuing to attract foreign investment," he added.

On the Malaysian-Vietnamese co-operation, Anwar said Vietnam, which faced a "different set of problems", has to determine its own priorities and directions.

While the experiences of Malaysia and other ASEAN countries might be irrelevant to Vietnam, the spirit of partnership, when shared, would be "mutually enriching and provide sure guidance to avoid costly errors".

Malaysia, he said, could not afford to ignore Vietnam and those who do would be "left behind".

Speaking to reporters later, Anwar reminded Malaysian investors in Vietnam not to give the impression that they are "exploiting" the country's cheap labour but instead strive to provide education and training for the workers.

He said Malaysians should draw from the bad experience when they were under foreign control in the 1960s.

The activities of Malaysian businessmen would also be closely monitored, he aded.

He also said he was not in a position to say the amount of Malaysian investments in Vietnam but they include businesses like petroleum, plantation, banking, telecommunications and hotel.

"They are starting in a small way," he added.

Illegal Indonesian Immigrants Repatriated

BK2705043492 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 21 May 92 p 6

[Text] Port Dickson, Wednesday—Police today repatriated 232 illegal Indonesian immigrants by using a ferry through a jetty in Batu Pahat, Johor.

Five trucks and a bus were used to take them to the jetty.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Fadhil Abdul Rahman, deputy chief of the Batu Pahat District Police, said that they were among the illegal immigrants arrested in the "Operation Expulsion" launched on 3 December.

He said that 1,335 illegal immigrants, including 249 women and 35 children had been arrested in the district's waters since the operation began.

"The figures show the growing number of illegal Indonesian immigrants arriving in the country as compared with some 2,400 last year," he said during a meeting at his office here today.

Fadhil said that 236 illegal immigrants were arrested last December, 77 in January this year, 127 in February, 41 in March, 424 in April, and 430 from 1 to 20 May.

He said that their sudden influx was believed to have been caused by their desire to meet the deadline for the registration of illegal immigrants set at the end of next month.

He said that his men arrested nine illegal immigrants arriving by an open boat in the Telok Kemang waters last night.

Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew Discusses Asia's Political Systems

BK2405085792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 1

[Text] Western condemnations of the Thai Government's crackdown on demonstrators will not change the nature of Thai society or politics, said the Senior Minister.

"What will eventually determine the nature of Thailand's political system will be the interaction within Thai society itself," said Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

In the same way, U.S. threats to withdraw China's trading privileges will not change the values and mores of a nation with a 4,000-year-old history. He made these remarks when he was asked what it would take to accelerate democratic progress in East Asia.

He said that he did not believe that economic progress went hand in hand with the American or European version of democracy.

The way Taiwan and South Korea had developed over the past 25 years, he said, showed that the preconditions for economic progress were political stability and cohesion.

But once a layer of managers, engineers, and technicians had been created, it would be impossible not to let them have a say on government policies. Some method of political participation was essential whether it be modelled on the Japanese dominant one-party system or some other.

Maintaining that no country would be able to enforce political changes on another, he brought up events in Thailand as an example. Thai society had to find a balance between group solidarity, which was provided by the monarchy, religion, and the armed forces, and the flexibility to adapt to changes that would come with greater economic opportunities.

"Between the two forces, you will eventually have a government that may or may not recognizably be a Western democracy but which must eventually allow the people, especially the educated, into the process of government."

On China, he noted that the U.S. Congress had taken upon itself to nudge the country towards a multi-party system by threatening to withdraw its Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.

The Chinese reacted to this by threatening to transfer nuclear and missile technology.

"Every year there is this bargaining. If you leave MFN alone, then proliferation of nuclear technology and missiles will remain suspended."

He said that the outcome in China will be a form of authoritarian government which will become more embracing and accommodating as it seeks to incorporate the managerial and technological class into the process of government.

Making it clear that countries should be left to forge their own political systems, he pointed to the example of the Philippines where the Americans who had 50 years to "tutor their pupils" had brought about disastrous results. The preconditions of political stability and cohesion were not there, he said.

Premier Meets Malaysian Armed Forces Chief

BK2705020892 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 26 May 92 p 2

[Text] The armed forces of Singapore and Malaysia have a good and close understanding of each other and this should filter down to the peoples of both countries so that there is less friction, General Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed Zain said yesterday.

The chief of Defence Forces of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) told reporters that when he called on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, they talked generally about how best to reduce misunderstandings in future and minor irritations that have occurred in the past.

Speaking at the Pan Pacific Hotel after his call on Mr Goh, Gen. Yaacob added that they also discussed how the two armed forces could be brought closer together.

He said that whatever happened in the future, the two countries should try and maintain close and cordial relationship. But being close neighbours, misunderstandings were inevitable, he added.

He said that Mr. Goh had expressed the desire to see even these minor irritations disappear because "although they may be minor in nature, they tend to leave remnants".

Gen. Yaacob, who arrived here on Sunday, is on a three-day official visit at the invitation of the acting chief of Defence Force and the chief of Army, Major-General Ng Jui Ping.

This is his first official visit to Singapore since assuming the appointment of Chief of Defence Forces of the MAF on April 11.

Gen. Yaacob observed that the military of the two sides had a good understanding of each other and that this should filter down to the people. If they understand the situation, they would not come to the wrong counclusions about certain issues. People overact if they are ignorant, he added.

Touching on how ties between the two armies could be improved, he suggested that more frequent informal visits by both sides "where you just come without having to give us long pre-warning and be accepted as our guests and our friends."

He added that the MAF would be opening up more military courses to SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] personnel, and Singapore would be doing likewise.

However, there would not be an increase in the number of bilateral exercises. For the moment, one land exercise would be held annually, with the two sides taking turns to host it.

He said: "This is because of our commitment, and I am sure Singapore has the same commitment, of holding exercises with other neighbouring countries."

Responding to a query on Malaysian political party Parti Islam's [PAS] plans to plant the Malaysian flag on the Singapore-administered island of Pedra Branca, Gen. Yaacob said: "I think you should take no notice of this small group of people."

"There is so much for us to gain by working together ...because I am sure we can benefit from you and so can you benefit from us, although we are different."

On his arrival at Mindef Headquarters in Bukit Gombak yesterday, he inspected a guard-of-honour. He also called on Defence Minister Yeo Ning Hojng, Major General Ng Jui Ping, and the first permanent secretary (defence), Mr. Lim Siong Guan.

He also visited the Headquarters, SAF Commandos, at Hendon Camp at Changi.

Gen. Yaacob's delegation includes senior military officers of the MAF. He leaves Singapore today.

PRC Wants To Use Country To Boost World Trade

BK2605034092 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 May 92 p 16

[By Goh Eng Yeow]

[Text] China hopes to use Singapore as its base to expand its growing trade ties with the rest of the world, according to China's commerce minister, Mr. Hu Ping.

Explaining the republic's importance to Chinese companies, he said Singapore is an important reexport centre for Chinese-made goods as major international trading companies are based here.

Giving an example of Singapore's strategic role, he said: "Even I have to change planes here on my way back to China."

He was in Singapore for a two-day private visit before leaving for home yesterday following a two-week trip to Australia and New Zealand.

On Friday, he attended a dinner hosted for him by Mr. Tong Ju, chairman of Tunas, a shipping and trading company, and attended by about 160 guests.

Explaining the nature of his stopover, Mr. Hu said he was here to see "old" friends like Mr. Tong and United Overseas Bank's chairman, Wee Choo Yaw, and establish ties with second and third generation business leaders.

Stressing that the resumption of China's diplomatic ties with countries such as Indonesia will not hurt the local businessmen who act as intermediaries for Chinese-made goods, he said: "You must understand that this is not a zero-sum game. With a big jump in trade, there will be growing opportunities for everyone," he added.

Singapore, which has developed sophisticated expertise in the banking and services industry, is also expected to play a pivotal role in facilitating China's growing business links with the rest of the world.

Mr. Hu said: "When I visited Australia recently, I was told that the sale of 20,000 ha [hectares] of woodland to a Chinese company was financed mainly by Singapore-based banks."

With the economic reforms, he said China is expected to open up its huge domestic consumer market to foreign retailers to set up shops in big cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou soon.

In his opinion, further economic reforms are inevitable as China strives to improve the living standard of its people.

He said: "Some people said there are reformist and conservative factions in China. This is not entirely right. The discussion in China now is on the pace of reform as everyone is pro-reform rather than turning the clock back."

Air Services Accord Signed With South Africa

BK2205120092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0743 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Singapore, May 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Singapore and South Africa Friday signed an air services agreement and opened a new chapter in bilateral relations between the two countries.

The agreement, the first government to government agreement signed by both countries, provides for Singapore Airlines (SIA) and South African Airways to operate two weekly passenger flights each and this will be increased to three weekly flights from April next year.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Singapore Communications Minister Mah Bow Tan said the agreement was in line with Singapore's policy to develop the republic as an important air junction.

He also welcomed the South African Government's decision to relax its aviation policy which would help to attract more airlines to fly there.

South African Minister for Administration and Tourism Dr. George Marais said the agreement was a step in the right direction to open South Africa to the world.

South African Government realised that it was not possible to live in isolation and to pursue political policies opposed by the rest of the world.

Marais said "globalization destroyed apartheid" and paved the way for South Africa to look to the future with confidence.

The 10-member South African delegation leaves for Kuala Lumpur Friday evening where Marais was scheduled to hold talks with Transport Minister Dr. Ling Liong Sik and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik.

Marais told reporters that South Africa and Malaysia were working out details of an air services agreement to be signed by both governments soon.

A similar agreement with Thailand was postponed because of the political unrest in Bangkok. Marais and his delegation were in the Thai capital on Wednesday but were unable to go out of Bangkok airport and were advised to proceed to Singapore.

He hoped that the agreement with Thailand could be signed later this year.

Cambodia

Loridon: Khmer Rouge Undermining Peace Plan

BK2705095292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 27 May 92

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May (AFP)—The attitude of the Khmer Rouge has called into question execution of the second phase of the Cambodian peace plan, a leader of the United Nations peacekeeping force there said Wednesday.

The Marxist guerrillas "are doing everything to put us in the worst condition for Phase Two of the peace plan," said General Michel Loridon, second in command of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) troops.

Phase Two of the peace agreement, signed in Paris last year by all four warring factions, envisages the demobilisation and disarmament of their estimated 200,000 troops pending general elections in April or May 1993.

This phase of the peace process can go ahead only "if all the factions play the game," Loridon said.

"I haven't been very optimistic for the last fortnight since the Khmer Rouge are creating serious problems by refusing our requests," the French general said.

The Khmer Rouge, military mainstay of the guerrilla resistance during 13 years of civil war, have refused to allow U.N. peacekeeping troops to move freely in zones under their control in the north and west of Cambodia.

Moreover, they have yet to hand over specific information on their troops, arms and extensive minefields.

They are demanding that the United Nations verify the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia as a precondition to their cooperating with the U.N. peace plan.

Hanoi officially withdrew the last of its forces from Cambodia in September 1989, almost 11 years after they invaded to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge from power and install a sympathetic government in Phnom Penh.

On Tuesday, UNTAC head Yasushi Akashi accused the Khmer Rouge during a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of undermining the peace process and warned them that they must change their attitude.

The SNC comprises representatives of all four factions—the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge, and followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann.

Akashi told reporters he had called on all four factions, "especially ... the Khmer Rouge," to meet conditions necessary to execute the second phase of the peace plan. He gave the Khmer Rouge until the beginning of next week to indicate what measures they had taken to satisfy conditions of Phase Two of the peace process and "warned (them) strongly against failure to comply."

"I am ready to exercise my right" to take necessary steps to promote the peace process should its obstruction continue, Akashi said.

At the start of the SNC meeting, Prince Norodom Sihanouk—noting his inability to resolve differences among council members—appealed to Akashi to exercise that right.

The UNTAC mandate empowers the U.N. envoy to take such decisions in case of deadlock among the factions, but Akashi added that he would prefer to see the factions work out an agreement among themselves.

UNTAC's military commander, Australian Brigadier General John Sanderson, said 4,500 peacekeeping troops were already in Cambodia and their number would increase to 12,000 before the second phase of the peace accord took effect.

The agreement initially envisaged the deployment of 15,900 U.N. troops in Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge 'Relax' Opposition on Aid Issue

BK2205072092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0437 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 22—The threat of United Nations pressure has forced the radical Khmer Rouge to relax its opposition to a half-billion dollar aid package for Cambodia's post-war reconstruction, diplomats were quoted by REUTER as saying last Friday [15 May].

However, a Wednesday [13 May] communique from Khmer Rouge Leader Khieu Samphan said his group would continue to veto the part of the package that would inject dollar 111 million into the Phnom Penh government's ailing public sector.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali appealed to donor nations for a dollars 590 million rehabilitation package for Cambodia on April 18.

When the proposal was first discussed at a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) on May 7, it was quickly rejected by the Khmer Rouge, which said it was in breach of the October peace agreement signed by the two sides.

Western diplomats said the Khmer Rouge was forced to back down after the issue was passed for mediation to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The bulk of the money is intended for food, health services, education and restoration of basic infrastructure and public utilities.

However, dollars 111 million was earmarked to shore up the government's administrative machinery, which has suffered a chronic cash shortage since the cut off of aid from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries.

A UN report says failure to provide financial support to the public sector could jeopardise the peace process.

"The situation is alarming and there is a real risk of disintegration of the entire civil service," it said.

"Non-payment of salaries for civil servants and essential personnel like doctors, health workers, teachers etc, has resulted in an exodus of trained persons from their jobs in search of other means of income and a serious shortage of essential goods and services."

Sihanouk Receives Austrian Envoy Credentials

BK2505065892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] At 1100 on 21 May at Khemarin Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Herbert Kroell, Austrian extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Cambodia, presented his credentials to His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia. On that occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his great pleasure with the appointment of H.E. Herbert Kroell by the Austrian Government, saying the mission would certainly strengthen and expand cooperation, solidarity, friendship, and fine relations between Cambodia and Austria. He profoundly thanked the Austrian Government for the nomination.

Sihanouk Accepts Credentials From Finnish Envoy

BK2505013692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Finnish diplomat, His Excellency [H.E.] Eero Salovaara, presented his credentials as extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Cambodia to His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] at Khemarin Palace at 1100 on 23 May. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk was very pleased to welcome the significant mission of H.E. Eero Salovaara in Cambodia, saying that, on behalf of the SNC and the Cambodian people, he will try to do his best to create all kinds of favorable conditions for making the Finnish ambassador's task a success in the interests of the two countries.

In his reply, H.E. Eero Salovaara reaffirmed that he would strive to do whatever he can to promote Cambodian peace and improve the previous relations of solidarity between Cambodia and Finland.

Chea Sim Receives French Delegation 22 May

BK2505065692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0421 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 25—Cambodian People's Party Chairman Chea Sim received here Friday [22 May] a visiting delegation of Montreuil City, France, led by its mayor, Mr. Jean Pierre Brard.

Chea Sim, who is also chairman of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia, highly valued the delegation's visit to Cambodia and the French role in solving Cambodian problem and in rebuilding the war-torn country.

"Although there are some violations of the ceasefire from the part of the opposition factions, the implementation of the Paris peace agreement is in good process," he said.

He reiterated the State of Cambodia's position in strictly honoring the ceasefire.

Chairman Chea Sim expressed his satisfaction at the fruitful cooperation between the Phnom Penh city and the Montreuil city.

In reply, the Montreuil mayor said Montreuil was the first in helping Cambodia since the country's liberation in 1979 and expressed the view that the reconstruction of Cambodia must start now without delay.

He informed the Cambodian leader of his delegations's activities in Cambodia, including the signing of certain agreements between the Montreuil city and Phnom Penh.

Chea Sim Hosts Banquet for Sihanouk 18 May

BK2205074592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 May 92

[Italicized passages in Sihanouk speech are spoken in French]

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, of the National Assembly, and of the Kampuchea United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council, hosted a banquet at Victory Beach on the evening of 18 May in honor of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], and Her Royal Highness the princess consort, on the occasion of their visit to Sihanoukville.

Attending as guests of honor were H.E. Kong Sam-ol, member of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Madame; Mr. Nhim Vanda, member of the CPP Central Committee and minister of trade; Lieutenant General Sin Sen, member of the CPP Central Committee, deputy minister of national security, and member of the SNC; Mr. Khim Bo, member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the Municipal Party Committee and Municipal People's Committee of Sihanoukville, and wife, together with several leaders of Kandal, Kompong Speu, Takeo, and Kampot Provinces and officials and personalities from various ministries and departments of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and Sihanoukville. Their excellencies the ambassadors and embassy representatives of different countries to Cambodia, including the United States, the UK, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, the Russian Federation, Korea, Poland, Indonesia, Germany, China, and Japan, as well as the representatives of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in Sihanoukville were also present.

Making a speech during the banquet, H.E. Chea Sim stressed: [Begin Chea Sim recording] My respects to most beloved and venerated HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, father of the nation, and chairman of the SNC, and HRH the princess consort; my respect to esteemed and beloved their excellencies the ambassadors of friendly countries who have accompanied HRH on this visit to Sihanoukville; my respect to their excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen present here: On behalf of the CPP and SOC Government and of the leadership of Sihanoukville, I would like to express deepest thanks to your highness for making this visit to Sihanoukville today. I also thank your highness for the speech made this morning with the greatest sense of cordiality and fairness toward your children and grandchildren at the solemn mass meeting during which your highness had rendered justice to the CPP and SOC Government.

The royal visit of Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and HRH the princess consort constitutes a prompt response to the aspiration of the leaders and people of Sihanoukville who have been looking forward to meeting with your highness in person and hearing your voice directly. This morning, your speech was a testimony of profound affection for your children and total fairness toward the CPP and SOC Government.

I thank their excellencies the ambassadors for accompanying their royal highnesses [passage indistinct] visit to Sihanoukville. This is a historic reward for the people of Sihanoukville as well as those in the rest of Cambodia. The leaders as well as people of Sihanoukville have always been worried that your highness would leave them again. They wholeheartedly express their undying respect and love for Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and HRH the princess consort, considering you their cool shade and haven.

I would like to express deep thanks and warm congratulations to your highness for your mission to achieve national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia in your capacity as SNC chairman and legal head of state since 1970. All of us have always been sure that the peace process in Cambodia will reach the goal of holding elections as planned in 1993, as this has always been your concern in your capacity as SNC chairman, and that your efforts to rebuild the country and reconcile the nation to end the conflict in Cambodia, reconcile all Cambodian factions, and unite them all to ensure peace for the coming elections will be crowned with success.

Your highness' speech in Kompong Speu Province was a most judicious pronouncement in rendering justice to the CPP and SOC Government. As for the CPP, SOC Government, and Cambodian people, we also observe fairness toward Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and HRH the princess consort. We unreservedly support your highness as the legal head of state since 1970. The CPP and SOC Government continue to follow Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and HRH the princess consort and the line of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 coup political party], which is the big brother of the CPP and SOC Government.

Certainly, the process of peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia and the respect for and implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris accord still have some obstacles. However, I am confident that under the astute and skillful leadership of Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, they will surely reach their final goal.

Your Most Respected Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, you are a great leader widely known on the international stage. There is no doubt in mind that your highness is the cool shade for all your children, for every Cambodian citizen. It is true that some parties continue to contend that Vietnamese troops still remain in Cambodia. However, these parties are not brave enough to report their findings directly to Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Neither are they brave enough to report them to UNTAC so that the latter can verify the whereabouts of Vietnamese troops and immediately send them back to Vietnam. In my opinion, these parties are not brave enough to report to your highness and UNTAC because this is only an excuse for them to conduct different activities that run counter to the 23 October 1991 Paris accord. I raise this question not with the intention of causing any harm. I do it only to confirm the existence of the danger successively posed by these parties.

Once again, on behalf of the CPP and SOC Government and of the leadership and people of this region, I would like to express welcome to Your Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and HRH the princess consort and wish you success in your visit. May you always enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. [applause] I would like to extend best wishes to HRH the prince [not further identified], their excellencies the ambassadors, other excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen who represent the foreign press present here. Thank you. [applause] [end Chea Sim recording]

On this solemn occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk made a speech which is in his own voice as follows:

[Begin Sihanouk recording] My respect to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and madame; my respect to their excellencies, madames, ladies, and gentlemen, my compatriots and foreign friends who are also honoring this reception with their presence. *My respect to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and Madame; my respect to their excellencies, mesdames, ladies, and gentlemen, my dear compatriots and my dear foreign guests who are also honoring this reception with their presence.*

First of all I would like to express most profound and heartfelt thanks to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and madame for kindly hosting this most solemn and brilliant reception in my honor and that of my wife, on the occasion of our visit to Kompong Som city that the CPP, SOC Government, and that the people under the enlightened leadership of H.E. Chea Sim have made the unanimous historic decision of rendering justice to me by rebaptizing this city which was the work of Sangkum Reas Niyum and the work of the CPP in continuation of Sangkum Reas Niyum, giving it back the old name of Sihanoukville. I would like to express my most profound and heartfelt gratitude. *This evening, H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and madame have the great courtesy and kindness to offer in my wife's honor and in my own this sumptuous dinner soaked in an atmosphere of great fraternity and with the very amiable, very gracious, and very friendly participation of their excellencies the ambassadors and mesdames as well as representatives of friendly countries together with the participation also of our foreign friends. I would like to say how moved I am to enjoy the firm support and high esteem of the CPP and SOC Government with H.E. Chea Sim as the enlightened leader. The CPP has, with kindness and in fairness, declared that the achievements it has made in all fields are the furtherance of the beneficial work of Sangkum Reas Niyum, my party in the 1950's and 1960's. So, today I also have the honor of receiving from H.E. Chea Sim, the CPP, and the SOC Government the solemn and historic declaration in which the Sihanoukville that I had founded, that the CPP has continued to develop, and that the regime born out of the March 1970 coup d'etat had changed its name to Kompong Som will from now on have its old name of Sihanoukville as it was known in the past. This constitutes a very fair gesture toward me. I would like to express my most profound and heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Chea Sim, the CPP, and the SOC Government and administration.*

Now I would like to inform you that their excellencies the ambassadors and representatives of friendly countries and other foreign friends have come to visit Sihanoukville to see with their own eyes the legacy of my past efforts to build this city up in the interest of Cambodia, for national independence and the economic independence of the country. You can see by yourselves the satisfactory, admirable new achievements made by the CPP and SOC with H.E. Chea Sim as the outstanding and excellent leader. When he said that the CPP is the younger brother of Sangkum Reas Niyum, he did not exaggerate. First, all the old achievements of Sangkum, such as those in city planning, port management, communications, education, sanitation, industry, and so on, have been restored, modified, fully reactivated, and renovated by the CPP in the superior interest of our nation and people. Second, progress has been made. Not only have they revived what Sangkum had left behind as a legacy, but also since we are now in the new era, they have considerably improved on them in the interest of both our nation and people. For this reason, I am very glad that their excellencies the ambassadors, their wives, and all other foreign friends have come to see this reality with their own eyes. I take this opportunity to again express from the bottom of my heart my satisfaction with and admiration of the CPP and SOC Government and the administration of Sihanoukville. [applause]

I am very glad that their excellencies the ambassadors and other representatives of friendly countries and their respected spouses and all our foreign friends present here have so kindly accompanied me from Phnom Penh to this place to see with their own eyes the achievements made in this region of Kompong Som. The city that has been rebaptized Sihanoukville had been my work. I would like also to pay homage to the United States for kindly helping me to build the nice Sihanoukville-Phnom Penh Highway. I also would like to thank France for kindly helping to build the port of Sihanoukville. Finally, I would like to thank Germany for having the kindness to build the terminal railroad station of Sihanoukville.

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, you have come here to see all of that. First, when I was in power, we worked hard to create this port which was so necessary to Cambodia's national independence—its political as well as economic independence—and so that our people and youth could benefit from the facilities to which they were entitled, namely public instruction, national education, and public health. Moreover, we brought industries to our country and particularly Sihanoukville. And I gave an advantage to the CPP which has benefited greatly from the work of Sangkum Reas Niyum. The CPP has admitted that the work of Sangkum Reas Niyum has been beneficial to Cambodia, to the Cambodian people, to the Cambodian youth. It is for this reason that the CPP has officially decided to consider itself as the true younger brother of Sangkum Reas Niyum. I therefore boundlessly thank the CPP which has worked hard so that, on the one hand, the Sangkum Reas Niyum achievements are restored, renovated, and reactivated in full swing and that is what is happening, particularly as you have seen in the public instruction, national edcucation, public health, and also industrial fields. Second, the CPP and SOC Government and Sihanoukville administration today do not limit themselves merely to rehabilitating what our party had done. They decided to enter the new era of the 1990's and consequently they have made great progress in Cambodia in all fields of national construction. For example, in Sihanoukville they have made great progress in all fields of our national construction.

On this occasion and in this context, I would like once again to pay homage to the CPP and the SOC administration and Government with H.E. Chea Sim as the very esteemed and enlightened leader.

Now I would like to admire H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Heng Samrin, H.E. Hun Sen, the CPP, and the SOC Government and administration for doing their utmost so that in our country all of our people are no longer stricken by poverty and are becoming better off in their living conditions. This I have seen everywhere that I have visited and I have been to every place in Phnom Penh and to many places, to many provinces in Cambodia. What satisfies me the most on top of the all-round development in national construction—an achievement by our younger brother, the CPP—is to see that the CPP has made every effort to assist the people, especially the poor. They have been very busy improving the lot of my poor children and grandchildren, helping them to gradually raise their living standard. Proof of this development can be seen in the facts that the people are healthy, there are no skinny people around, they wear bright smiles as in the time when I was in power, and they have freedom and nice clothes to wear. This morning I admired even my children's colorful umbrellas. [giggles] People usually say that our Cambodian citizens are so poor. However, according to my observation, and I know many countries in the world, the CPP and SOC administration have made genuine efforts in all villages, districts, provinces, and cities. There are poor people whose living standard is rising, who are well fed, who have better education. This morning there were a great number of students. And in other areas where I have visited, even the most remote of them, I saw that there are schools and students. This is wonderful. They wear good clothes and have smiling faces as in the past. As I just said, I have admired even their colorful umbrellas in Sihanoukville. We can see that my children have freedom, good health, good education, and a rising living standard. This makes social justice possible and it makes us firmly confident in our country's future which will surely be prosperous and glorious as we have wished from the outset of our working together. For this reason, I am extremely happy. Thank you very much. [applause]

The third observation that I have made is that contrary to what people thought, we have not ignored, the CPP and SOC administration and government have not ignored the little people. On the contrary, they have made very great, daily, sustained efforts so that the living standard of the people, of the little people, of the masses that we call the poor class is rising further everyday. As proof, not only have the people smiles on their faces, not only are their clothes clean and even showy. There are young girls who are quite natty as you could have noted, not only here but in all the other provinces of Cambodia. I have noted since my arrival here and I have traveled a lot inside my country, that wherever I visted in the villages, districts, provinces, and cities the people are well fed. Despite the difficulties caused by more than two decades of war, misery, and suffering, we can note that not only do the people not suffer from famine but are even well fed. There are no poor, no starving people. We also see that smiles have returned everywhere, that the people have refound freedom. If they were not free, they could not smile in a natural manner. All the smiles are natural. The smiles and laughter are spontaneous. That means that the people feel free. What is also important is that the youths are well educated and schooling is intensified. I have noted that everywhere there are enormous numbers of students, and many schools have been rebuilt and new ones are being built. Schooling is intensified, as is the literacy movement in our country. This means that the current regime has not engaged in vain propaganda. The current regime works. And I do not betray my neutrality as SNC chairman if I pay homage to this regime and encourage it to work harder and persist on this good path, so that our people become constantly better off concerning their living and educational standard, and also concerning the protection of freedom and peace for our national community.

In conclusion, I would like to comment on the fact that certain factions have created trouble by raising the question of the Yuon, of the Vietnamese troops. I have already made my position on that matter known. Let me stress again that in my capacity as head of state as well as SNC chairman I have to rely on the UNTAC headed by H.E. Yasushi Akashi, representative of the UN secretary general. This is because I have no personal means to conduct investigations, except those made by UNTAC, for UNTAC represents the United Nations, the international community. UNTAC has sufficient means and capacity to pass judgment on this issue. I have to rely on UNTAC and have to accept its findings as final. If you keep creating endless hostilities like that, when will our community be stable? There is no way it can be stable. Therefore, I announced that UNTAC should conduct investigations. UNTAC then reported that it had looked for and failed to find any Vietnamese troops. I therefore have to follow UNTAC's findings. It is not right for me to believe this or that person's claims. I must follow UNTAC. I must put it briefly like that. I am confident that all of you, both Cambodians and foreigners, would agree with me. We have asked UNTAC to make an investigation and pass a judgment on this matter. Now UNTAC has made a ruling and if we still do not accept it, then how can we find peace and hapiness for our nation? How can I reconcile the nation? UNTAC is now here and we have said that we support UNTAC and the Paris accord 100 percent, yet we seek every excuse to obstruct peace and reconciliation. This is not right. Concerning the matter of Vietnamese civilians, we should also let UNTAC decide how to deal with it.

Moreover, we have signed the covenant on human rights. Therefore, regarding foreign civilians, we should respect human rights in deciding whether or not we should deport them. If there is any incident that might create a problem between our country and any other country, we must hold peaceful negotiations. Between Vietnam and us, we have announced bilaterally that should there be any problem, we will talk with each other as fully independent and sovereign countries on an equal footing after the elections. After elections we will have a parliament and a government recognized by the world. That government and parliament will then make decisions and hold friendly talks with Vietnam peacefully while always respecting human rights. That will be the right way to proceed.

I cannot end my speech this evening without talking briefly about the unfortunate charges about the so-called presence of Vietnamese troops. I have to make this clear. We have the privilege of having UNTAC in our country. We must trust UNTAC. UNTAC has the means and capacity to conduct serious and thorough investigations to find out if there really are Vietnamese troops in our country. We must trust UNTAC. And all Cambodian factions have very seriously declared that they support UNTAC and that they support the 23 October 1991 Paris accord. Ladies and gentlemen, so that our conduct, our policy is in accord with what we have declared—that we support UNTAC and the Paris accord—we must trust UNTAC. It is thus that I asked UNTAC, H.E. Akashi personally to conduct serious, thorough, and extensive investigations in Cambodia to see if there are Vietnamese troops. According to UNTAC findings, there are no Vietnamese troops. As SNC chairman, I must trust UNTAC because I have no personal means to conduct my own investigations. I must thus believe the results of UNTAC investigations. It is by respecting the work and results of the work of UNTAC that we Cambodians can reconcile with one another, unite, and avoid splits, insecurity, and whatever might threaten the stability and consequently the independence and sovereignty of our country. Therefore, I take the liberty of appealing to all Cambodian parties, all Cambodian factions to respect UNTAC and trust it so that the results of UNTAC investigations be accepted as such. We must not complicate the existence of Cambodia by provoking all kinds of pretexts not to achieve national reconciliation, for as a French saying goes, unity is strength. And since we are a small country, a small people, unity is necessary, even vital for us. We must avoid whatever might split us and must do everything that helps unite us.

Concerning the Vietnamese civilians, as well as other problems, there is the bilateral declaration between myself and his excellency the head of the Vietnamese delegation—I believe it was the delegation of Vietnam's minister of foreign affairs. According to that declaration, what we have to do is just follow the principles governing international relations. We must not settle poblems existing between states by nonpeaceful means. We must always use peaceful means. Therefore, after the general elections which will take place next year, and the formation of the National Assembly and its government issued from these elections, which will be universally recognized by the international community, the United Nations, and the whole world, let us allow the National Assembly and the government to examine all the problems which might still exist [words indistinct] between Vietnam and us or between any other country and us. We must hold friendly negotiations. We must use peaceful means. Friendship will do marvels. I am sure that the Vietnam-Cambodia friendship will do marvels. We will succeed in resolving all problems. And thus will Cambodia be able to live again in unity, independence, and finally greatness. That is what I have to say. [applause]

Thank you very much. May H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and madame, H.E. Vice Premier Kong Sam-ol and madame, H.E. Minister Sin Sen and madame, H.E. the governor, the chairman of Sihanoukville and madame, their excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, and all my beloved children in Sihanoukville and in the rest of Cambodia as well as all esteemed excellencies, mesdames, and all other foreign friends always enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. [applause] [end recording]

This reception ended at 2245 in a joyous atmosphere replete with a high sense of solidarity and internationalism.

Sihanouk Speaks at Sihanoukville Hospital 20 May

BK2205104392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 May 92

[Prince Norodom Sihanouk's 20 May speech at Sihanoukville Hospital—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] My respects to His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim and his wife and to all Their Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen who are outstanding leaders of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, and Sihanoukville Administration; my respects to the director of the Sihanoukville hospital and all doctors and nurses; my respects to all personalities of the international humanitarian organizations and of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] who are helping us consolidate peace in Cambodia; dear children and grandchildren: First of all, I would like to reaffirm my affection to all of you and to tell you that I am most happy to see that all of you have a great unity, whether you are Buddhists, Muslims, or Khmer of other religions. "Your living conditions have greatly improved as a result of your hard work. You deserve being excellent citizens of our independent Cambodia. This also constitutes an undeniable achievement of the CPP and the SOC Government and Administration, with H.E. Chea Sim as the chairman and enlightened leader who has so kindly accompanied me to this place to greet all of you along.

"I am also happy to note that both the authorities and the population of Kompong Som have closely cooperated in working for the tremendous, all-round development of Sihanoukville. I am extremely pleased by this development. I have been away from Sihanoukville for more than 20 years. Now I am back and I see that this city that I founded when my Sangkum Reas Niyum party was in power took some steps backward when Mr. Lon Nol and Prince Sirik Matak staged the coup d'etat to oust me from the country in March 1970. It also experienced difficulties in the time of war and crisis, and in the reign of Mr. Pol Pot made even greater steps backward as it suffered from devastation like other cities in Cambodia and like othber places throughout the country. Since I and my wife returned to the country to live with all of you as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum for the sake of the happiness, prosperity, and development of the people and nation, I have been deeply touched by, first, the legacy of our Sangkum Reas Niyum when we worked in close cooperation and unity with one another and, second, the continuation of our Sangkum Reas Niyum policy by the new movement, the new regime in Cambodia, namely the CPP and the SOC Government.

"The CPP and the SOC Government have made great efforts since 7 January 1979, starting from scratch and working hard, relying on their own efforts. In the Sangkum Reas Niyum era, we used to say that Cambodia must help itself." In his speech at last night's reception in my honor, Chairman Chea Sim said the CPP and SOC Government have succeeded in the policy of Sangkum Reas Niyum and would unconditionally imitate everything that it had done for the good of the people and motherland. "Yesterday, H.E. Chea Sim also said that the CPP pledges to be the true younger brother of Sangkum Reas Niyum. He has done that not only in words, but also in deeds. I am most pleased." I would like to praise the CPP and SOC Government for working hard to bring a better life for our people and hope for our nation. "I would like to stress that the number of students now is greater than that in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum. More and more children are going to school to help fight for progress. This is excellent. I deplore the decades of bitterness when I was not allowed to lead the nation. If that coup d'etat had not taken place, how advanced would our country have been? How developed would Sihanoukville or Phnom Penh or Siem Reap or other cities or even our countryside have been if we had had full security and independence so that together we could have built our nation over the past 20 years?"

However, despite those lost years, the CPP and SOC Government have worked hard day and night to modify, revive, and reactivate the achievements of Sangkum Reas Niyum. I have witnessed all of these movements in Phnom Penh and other places throughout the country. I have visited 9-10 provinces and met with my children everywhere. I will visit all the provinces in the company of H.E. Chea Sim, or Heng Samrin, or Hun Sen and various ministers and deputy ministers. I can assure you of the development in our country. I am the neutral chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] but I have to encourage the SOC and the CPP to continue making sacrifices for our people and nation.

"Although I have to observe neutrality, I still must mention and praise whatever is good. The children in some of the factions that are not pleased with my speeches found to be too flattering for the CPP should be more understanding toward me. I am neutral and I love all of you in all factions equally, but I have to praise and encourage anyone of you who has worked hard for the progress and development of the nation and for the good of the people so that our country which has retrogressed for years after the coup d'etat and before the administration of H.E. Chea Sim and his party can now catch up with our neighbors. It is true that our country is small, but we have all the means and sufficient courage to run after and catch up with others. If we make efforts, we surely will catch up because we enjoy the help of the international community. Friendly countries represented here by Their Excellencies the ambassadors, the international community, and the United Nations have plans to assist us. Therefore, with the combined strength of all of us Cambodians together with the assistance of the international community—provided we keep woking hard as the CPP has been doing from scratch since 1979—we will surely deserve being the genuine offsprings of the Angkorian ancestors. We will catch up with other countries in Asia and we will win historic honors for our nation."

Although I am 70 years old now I still feel young because the CPP and SOC have given me strength by restoring my dues and legitimate position as head of state, and declaring that Mr. Lon Nol's coup d'etat was unjust and illegal. And yesterday they made the historic declaration that the city I had founded in the 1960's was rebaptized Sihanoukville as in the past. I am extremely pleased.

In this hospital I see development in public health just as I saw development in education when I visited the Sihanoukville junior high school yesterday. All of this development was the continuation of the Sangkum Reas Niyum achievements undertaken by the CPP and SoC. In truth, I am pleased not only with the rehabilitated achievements of Sangkum Reas Niyum, but also with all the new achievements made by the present party and administration which have espoused the line of my old party. I therefore consider myself lucky to inaugurate today the new surgery ward at this hospital which I will shortly inspect. I once again would like to express my pleasure.

Allow me to point out that since we have to work ceaselessly to rebuild our nation, we need peace more than anything else. Peace is the most important foundation for our development in all fields. We must never return to war. We must avoid war at all costs.

"This peace means that different parties, different factions of Cambodia must agree to reconcile with one another. I have informed other parties, such as FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], which was my own creation after Sangkum Reas Niyum, about that. I thus told FUNCINPEC that if we join hands with the CPP—meaning that if these two of my children join hands—in rebuilding the nation and maintaining peace, we would achieve considerable development and our country would surely become stronger. However, some children in FUNCINPEC were unhappy with me, charging that I love my new child more than the old ones. This is not true. I have Chakkrapong, Ranariddh, Narindrapong, and Bopha Devi and they are all my children. I love them all equally. If they do things right, I praise them and if they do them wrong, I reprimand them. But the big children such as CPP and FUNCINPEC, to tell you the truth, I dare not reprimand them. However, if they behave correctly, I praise them and encourage them so that they continue on the correct path. For this reason, I told Prince Ranariddh of FUNCINPEC: Dear son, join the CPP and together you undertake the following tasks: develop and consolidate peace; avoid insecurity and disputes; and unite to become the main strength for the nation. As a French saying goes, unity is force. Our country is small with a small population compared with other countries, such as Vietnam and Thailand, our neighbors. Our friends Vietnam and Thailand are much bigger than us. We have a population of about 8 million, say 9 million pending an official census. And Vietnam has 66-67 million and Thailand 50 million. With all the care of the health department, even with a low mortality rate, we would have at most 9 million. This cannot be compared with Thailand's 54 million and Vietnam's 68 million, we are no match, and then there is China which has a population of 1,200 or 1,300 million—who says that she is advocating a one-child family! We Cambodians can have 10 children per family, but not China."

We cannot produce enough people, even with all the best medical care. Then, where can we get the necessary strength for national reconstruction? We need unity and peace. "Therefore, all factions must join hands. Do not be envious when you see that I always have praises for the SOC faction. Stop being envious. Help the SOC rebuild the nation. This is the best way. I say this in my capacity as SNC chairman. I would like, however, to give advice in front of the diplomatic corps here present as observers. I hold that if we advocate multiparty liberal democracy, we must have multiple parties and can freely criticize anyone we want to, provided that criticism is fair.

"As venerable monks present here know well, Buddhism forbids lying or provoking and harming others. We can have several parties with the multiparty system, but can we be united and love one another as fellow Cambodians. If the answer is no, I will have worries. If the answer is yes, I will be much pleased. Certain children, instead of following my counsel, have told me that they kept count of all my praises for H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Heng Samrin, and H.E. Hun Sen, H.E. Kong Sam-ol, and H.E. Nhim Vanda [chuckles]." Therefore, to have peace we must reduce our quarrels and envies and enhance unity instead.

So, do you see as I see that peace, security, and happiness for our nation is necessary? [applause] Thank you.

Finally, allow me to inform you that the SOC Government has donated 2 million riels for the hospital and I personally donate U.S.$500 to the staff. I thank everybody here and especially our medical workers for the good work that you have done for the well-being of the people.

Sihanouk Gives Address in Prey Veng 25 May

BK2605134592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 May 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at 25 May ceremony to inaugurate a junior high school in Kamchay Mea District, Prey Veng Province—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] "My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks, especially to the venerable superior monk of the Buddhist clergy of glorious Prey Veng Province; my respects to His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Hun Sen, Madame Chea Sim, Madame Hun Sen, and all Their Excellencies, Mesdames, ladies, and gentlemen personalities of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government and administration; my respects to Their Excellencies the representives of H.E. Son Sann's front such as H.E. Ieng Muli; my respects to Their Excellencies the representatives of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] present here in a show of solidarity within our great Cambodian family on this most solemn occasion; my respects to all grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are my most beloved children; my respects to all excellent members of the SOC armed and police forces present to pay homage to me; my respects to Their Excellencies the ambassadors and great representatives of friendly countries who are present to show support for our new Cambodia and to encourage us all in national reconstruction and defense; my respects to all other foreign friends, including [Austrian Ambassador] H.E. Herbert Kroell."

I deeply thank the 92-year-old venerable superior monk of Prey Veng for personally welcoming me despite his advanced age and for expressing the wishes of the entire people that I never leave them again and that I would live to be more than 100 years old. My thanks also to you all, dear children.

Since my return to the homeland on 14 November last year, this is the first time meeting all of you. I have repeatedly asked H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen to allow me to visit you, my children in Prey Veng, as soon as possible. However, I was begged to give Their Excellencies and all of you enough time to make proper preparations to welcome me and to generate new achievements. You are very busy building the nation by improving on the achievements of Sangkum Reas Niyum—the achievements you and I made in the past before the coup d'etat of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak. You of the CPP and SOC government and administration being the successors of Sangkum Reas Niyum have repaired and reactivated all the great achievements in public education, health care, water conservancy, and communications, bringing about a better life for the people. In addition, you have also made new achievements to the benefit of our youths and people in general. As in other provinces, you are working day and night with confidence, dedication, and enthusiasm as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum to preserve the nation, peace, and national unity.

I have attentively listened to the report presented by the chairman of Prey Veng Province dealing with all aspects of national construction in this province under the enlightened leadership of H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and the SOC Government and CPP. As in the Sangkum era, I am going to inaugurate new achievements on the spot as well as through pictures, because I cannot visit all of them. Many pictures of the new achievements have thus been brought for me to inaugurate here.

The greatest reward of all my work is to see that you are happy and enjoy a better life. The CPP and SoC government have been working to help solve all your problems. There are achievements in all sectors—education, communications, health care, water conservancy, industry, and so on. These are both your happiness and my pride. "For this reason, now that I am meeting with you I would like to thank again all venerable monks, the CPP with H.E. Chea Sim as chairman, H.E. Hun Sen as head of government, and H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin as party vice chairman. I thank all other party leaders and many ministers who have accompanied me from Phnom Penh and their spouses. I thank Madame Chea Sim and Madame Hun Sen who have also participated in the national construction and defense movement since I was chairman of the Cambodian National United Front that waged the struggle for national liberation. I also thank all children in Prey Veng, administrators, armed forces, civilians, and all my children who have made joint efforts with the SOC Government to gradually improve the living conditions of our people."

We have now entered a much better era. Between 1970, when Lon Nol and Sirik Matak staged the unconstitutional coup d'etat, and 1990 we experienced two wars and we lived under the Pol Pot regime. Under Pol Pot you suffered so much and so did I, as many of my own children and grandchildren perished. I do not want to elaborate, but let me tell you that I understand your griefs and sufferings very well. I am not going to tell you how Pol Pot jailed me and my wife, but I just cannot forget how he killed five of my sons and daughters and 14 of my grandchildren. It is only because the Khmer Rouge were asked by China not to harm me that I and my wife were spared. Nevertheless, I suffered greatly when I learned that my people were tormented and my own children slaughtered.

"When I said we are now in a new era, I mean that now we Khmers have agreed with one another, all factions under my leadership and chairmanship have agreed that we stop making war, stop the quarrelling, stop hating each other, that we must be reconciled, and unite again. This is because we are a small country with a small population compared to other countries. Therefore, we must unite to have great strength. Unity is the only fundamental, irreplaceable way for us to rebuild the country with independence, territorial integrity, and peace. For this reason, I specifically thank the CPP and SOC Government, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, who are also here in his capacity as the head of government, who has personally accompanied me, and who also represents H.E. Chea Sim—who himself came here a few days ago to make preparations to welcome me—and Madame Chea Sim, who has been here to welcome me, and Madame Hun Sen, who has accomapnied my wife."

I recall last year when I and H.E. Hun Sen cordially met in Jakarta. We decided to announce an end to the fighting. No foreigners were party to that decision. We had been meeting fruitlessly for years but we only succeeded when we agreed to do it. This is because no solution was possible if we relied only on foreigners. We must help ourselves first and then foreigners will help us. I then gathered my son, the prince, and other parties and we all reached a consensus. In Bangkok we announced the cease-fire as of 24 June 1991. The rest is history with the Paris international conference and the Paris peace accord we all must fully respect.

"As the chairman of Prey Veng Province noted in his very significant speech, only when all factions are united and strictly implementing the Paris accord, can we be successful and avoid all dangers in the future. I therefore take this opportunity to thank H.E. Ieng Muli from H.E. Son Sann's party and the gentlemen of the FUNCINPEC party of Prince Ranariddh for joining the CPP in developing and consolidating our solidarity and preserving peace for our nation. Moreover, I also appeal to the party of Democratic Kampuchea to join in the unity and to strictly abide by the 23 October 1991 Paris accord. We must all fully implement this accord if we want progress and glory. The glory is already here, my children. Our new Cambodia is now recognized by the whole world as an independent and sovereign state. We have reestablished relations with countless countries. Every week, every month new countries contact us and give the SOC Government unconditional aid and so on. The four factions in their capacity as members of the Supreme National Coucil of Cambodia, with me as chairman, have come into friendly contact with other countries which have worked out programs to help Cambodia as a whole, indiscriminately. The international community is therefore helping us to rebuild the nation and we have already received their humanitarian aid."

Like the other provinces, Prey Veng was hard hit by floods before I returned to the homeland. I was urged by Chairman Hun Sen to drum up international humanitarian support, and we received considerable aid for our flood victims. In the diplomatic field, when I was in power under Sangkum we had relations with only about

30 countries. Now we have relations with 32 countries and I am going to accept more credentials once I return to Phnom Penh.

"Therefore, our destiny is in our own hands; whether we will be prosperous or not is all up to our own efforts. Now that the three Cambodian factions, such as the CPP and so on, have been behaving themselves, and if the party of Democratic Kampuchea also agrees to behave itself like the others, we will surely encounter no more obstacles and will advance safely, happily, and with prestige." Under Sangkum I worked hard to win over the different political parties, such as the Democratic Party, the Progressive Party of Prince Montana, the Freedom Party, the Renovation Party of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak, and so on and we had peace for from 1953 to 1969. We can recreate that peaceful epoch as well as the famous Angkorian period by joining hands as you are doing now under the leadership of the CPP and SOC Government. Unity is the most valuable asset for us to ensure social justice and progress for our young people.

Speaking of our young people, I would like to thank our students for composing a song and singing it in my honor. I am most proud of you. And I can assure you that there is now bigger progress than in the time of Sangkum, especially in education. I thank all of you in the CPP and SOC Government again for bringing great development and progress to various fields.

We are going to inaugurate several other accomplishments through pictures since it is not physically possible for me to go to all their locations. I thank all of you for sparing me the travel by bringing pictures of what you have built in various villages for me to inaugurate here.

I have been asked by H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen to read out a list of rich donations from the CPP and SOC Government for the maintenance and expansion of this school and various other establishments, such as schools, temples, and roads. As my personal contribution, I would like to donate U.S. $500 to the school. In my inscription in the school's golden book, I call on all of you to keep making great achievements for the good of our nation and the well-being of our people. Thank you.

Son Sann Reports on Australia, ASEAN Tour

BK2205135392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 May 92

[14 May interview with KPNLF Chairman Son Sann by station correspondent; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a correspondent of the Voice of the Khmer [VOK]. My respects to Your Excellency Son Sann, chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC]. First of all, I would like to thank Your Excellency Chairman for granting me this interview to be broadcast for the information of our VOK listeners. I have learned that Your Excellency went to Australia for an official visit there. Please tell us of the outcome of that visit.

[Son Sann] I thank the VOK for giving me a chance to report on my recent visit to a number of countries for the information of our compatriots. For years I had had no opportunity to visit Australia because each year I would be busy going to the United Nations, to Europe, to the United States, and to Canada instead. This year at the official invitation of Australia, I spent a week there. First I went to Canberra, where I spent two days and met with the foreign minister and the prime minister. As you know, Australia also has a shadow government to control the actual government. This shadow government is not an opposition, but an experienced, veteran agency to keep an eye on the government. If the government makes a mistake, this shadow government will raise a protest. That is a British method. It is a good practice. I met with the two sides, with the foreign ministers, the defense ministers, and ministers of [word indistinct] of both the current government and shadow government.

I also met with our people in Canberra, Sidney, and also Melbourne. When I met with the government ministers, I informed them of an injustice: There are a million Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors in Cambodia and, according to the technical group that is preparing an electoral law, there is an article that would authorize any Yuon who was born in Cambodia or any Yuon whose parents were born in Cambodia to have the right to vote. I think that this is not right since there are a million Yuon in Cambodia. This cannot be fair. Why? Because there is no country that would permit noncitizens to vote. It is true that there were Yuon living in Cambodia in the past. You all know that there were many Yuon working in Cambodia during the French protectorate. But those Yuon held Yuon ID cards and had no right to vote. Now, overseas Khmer in Australia or France or the United States or Canada would have to go back to Cambodia in order to vote. And our people who went into exile took refuge abroad because of the Khmer Rouge threat or the Yuon aggression. They did not leave the country of their own free will. Now they are living in foreign countries where their families and work are and where their children are going to school. They are told that they must go back to Cambodia to vote. They would have to travel by plane back to Cambodia where they would have to live for a while to register in the voters' registry and wait for the elections. So, not every one of our brothers abroad will be able to come to the country. Whereas the uninvited million Yuon in Cambodia will have free access to voting. This is not fair. I thus informed our Australian friends and all our compatriots of that problem.

Moreover, I thanked the Australian Government for sending a number of troops to help keep peace in Cambodia, including [UNTAC Commander] General Sanderson. When I met the defense minister and the top commander, I thanked them for that and asked them to send even more troops if possible, for the UN international forces in Phnom Penh are functioning very well but there are not enough of them in the provinces. I thus asked them to send more troops so that there would be enough to keep peace in Cambodia and that, first, there would be security and, second, human rights could be respected by all.

In Australia, when I visited Melbourne I went to the temple to pay homage to the monks and I saw some Australian soldiers from the Navy who were preparing to leave the following day and who went to the temple to see me very cordially. I thanked them very much. I also met with our brothers in Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne. Most of them are reasonably informed about the situation in our country. But they did not know it quite well enough. They asked me about the situation and I briefed them on it. A few of our compatriots there said they would come to Cambodia to attend the congress of KPNLF to be held in Phnom Penh, maybe at the Sport Stadium, on 21-22 May.

I have returned here since last night. I see that many of our brothers have come from the United States, France, and other countries. I am glad that they come so that they will go to Phnom Penh and join with us in the congress on 21 and 22 May.

Another thing about which I want to inform our compatriots is that most of our brothers in these three cities of Australia support our front.

[Correspondent] I have learned that Your Excellency also visited Indonesia. What resulted from that visit?

[Son Sann] After going to Australia, I went to Indonesia with our delegation. I was fortunate enough to meet with President Suharto, together with His Excellency Ali Alatas, who is well-known. The president was very cordial and anxious to learn about the situation in our country. I thanked President Suharto and reminded him of the time when our factions met in Indonesia a few years back and he urged us to leave our cars in the parking lot and together ride on only one car toward independence. I informed him that now all four Khmer factions have agreed to hitch a ride on the same car but it seems that they have not yet agreed on a consensus about where actually we should go, toward independence or national reconciliation. I also informed him that the day I arrived in Phnom Penh I had announced that for 13 years we had fought to liberate our country from the Yuon aggressors. In my opinion, the fighting stage has already ended because all four Khmer factions signed the Paris accord on 23 October 1991, agreeing to solve the Cambodia problem according to the solution worked out by the Big Five. Since we have agreed to that, the fighting stage should come to an end and we must now start a new stage, that of national reconciliation. If we achieve national reconciliation, our country will have lasting peace. Without national reconciliation, there will always be clashes, such as the ones in Kompong Thom. Therefore, to have lasting peace so that our compatriots, who have suffered so much since 1970, can enjoy ease and happiness, we must work out national reconciliation. For this reason, I beg all four factions to keep that in mind—to think more about the fate of Cambodia and that of the Khmer people. Now that in response to the encouragement by President Suharto we have boarded the same car, we must correctly and fully implement the Big-Five accord and must discard all our selfish interests. This was what I informed President Suharto, who again advised that since we have been fighting each other for years and are not used to living together there has to be some friction among us; however, we must make equal efforts from all sides and then we will surely reach the shore of happiness. I then thanked the president and the foreign minister for sending a number of Indonesian troops to Cambodia. Both Indonesia and Malaysia have sent a large number of their soldiers to Cambodia. We have seen that the troops of these two countries are working expertly in Phnom Penh. When UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali arrived in Phnom Penh, it was the troops from these two countries that took care of security along with the Australian forces. These troops have helped us keep the peace and protect human rights. This is very heart-warming and inspiring. Yet, we hope that Australia, Indonesia, and Malaysia will send additional troops to Cambodia, for there are not enough of them in the provinces.

Let me continue my report. After Indonesia, I went to Singapore where I raised the question of unfairness concerning the Yuon having the right to vote whereas the overseas Khmer have to return to Cambodia for a period of time in order to register for elections. I then went to Malaysia, which was making preparations to send another battalion to help keep peace in Cambodia. This was just what we wanted and it was a great gesture. Malaysia also said it was ready to help us rebuild the country. And so was Indonesia.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform our compatriots that the ASEAN countries have helped us a lot. We must be grateful to them. ASEAN has helped us since 1979 when in the United Nations the six ASEAN countries started their annual support for us by calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces and the prevention of a recurrence of the past genocide. The UN resolution on Cambodia has been initiated by ASEAN every year since 1979. Therefore, our compatriots must not forget the great service rendered to us by the ASEAN countries. As you know, of the six ASEAN countries, Thailand has also helped us considerably. Let us not forget that.

After visiting Malaysia, I spent one and a half days in Brunei where I had an audience with the Sultan of Brunei and met with the foreign minister who is the Sultan's younger brother. I informed both of them of the situation in Cambodia. The Sultan was very kind, so I was told. Although Brunei is a small country, it plans to send a company of troops to help us. This was just a project, just what I heard. I am not yet sure whether this will be true. And other countries too will send their troops to help us. With the presence of all these forces in Cambodia and if we Khmer succeed in reconciling with one another, we will surely achieve peace. For this reason, I beg all four Khmer factions to think of the nation's interests before anything else. Think of the fate of our Khmer compatriots. Forget about personal interests. Stop using brute force and raw power. Let us talk to and understand each other. The international forces are helping us keep peace and ensure respect for human rights, and then they will help us ensure correct elections. This is my plea, my wish. I beg all Khmer to refrain from doing anything that would make other people know that we are antagonistic toward each other. Let us do so that others see that we Khmer know how to be reconciled and united.

Khmer brothers should also understand that Cambodia belongs to the Khmer and that the Khmer should live in Cambodia. The Yuon have their own country. They should go back to their country. We do not want anything that does not belong to us Khmer. Cambodian land should be left to the Khmer. Cambodian property should be left to the Khmer. You, the Yuon, have your own property and land, you should go back to your own country. In this way, Yuon and Khmer will be able to look at each other's faces and stop antagonizing each other. [passage indistinct] I thus took leave of the Sultan of Brunei and his younger brother. They assured me that Brunei would help Cambodia along with the other ASEAN countries. This is my report to my compatriots about my six-day visit to Australia, my two-day visit to Indonesia, my two-day visit to Singapore, my two- day visit to Malaysia, and my one and a half-day visit to Brunei.

[Correspondent] I have just learned that there was an SNC meeting in Phnom Penh. What measures did the KPNLF propose concerning Cambodia's natural resources?

[Son Sann] Concerning Cambodia's natural resources, I would like to inform you that there is an urgent issue about deforestation in our country. I do not know how many thousand square kilometers of our forested land have been denuded since the Yuon aggressors came to Cambodia. Recently, as you know, Thailand banned all logging activities. Laos has also banned logging and the export of timber. Vietnam has done the same. Only Cambodia has not done anything. Logging in Cambodia continues unabated. Everybody is felling trees. UNDP [UN Development Program] experts called on His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk and informed him that at the current rate of deforestation, within six more years Cambodia will surely suffer a fatal consequence because of excessive logging. There will be serious droughts and inundations. This is a very serious matter. Soon there will be an earth summit and HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk will represent Cambodia at that summit in a bid to drum up support for the protection of our environment. I also have learned that some international organizations intend to help us protect our land. I also urged the SNC to control and review all the logging contracts. Without appropriate measures to stop further logging, we will be in serious danger. All the SNC members agreed to my proposal without any opposition. I also recently had an opportunity to ask Mr. Khieu Samphan to stop using machines in mining for precious stones in Pailin. They have been using machines day and night. They have even been using water hoses day and night, thus fouling up the water in the Sangke River in Battambang. When HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk visited Battambang, the inhabitants lodged complaints with him, asking his intervention to help clear the troubled water of Sangke River. I have also received complaints from Khmer people who used to dig for precious stones in Pailin using hand tools in the past. Now with the use of machines these people have become jobless. I thus told Khieu Samphan that with the extensive use of machines around the clock, it would not take long—say two, six more months or at best one more year—before all the precious stones are gone from Cambodia. I asked him to go back to using hands again so that our Khmer brothers can be employed. H.E. Khieu Samphan gave a good reply. He suggested that the SNC should inspect the area to see about the use of machines around the clock. I proposed that the SNC control all the contracts, such as those concerning logging. I said that that was a good idea. It was fair. Let us have the SNC control everything in the interests of our country.

Khieu Samphan Thanks Son Sann for Invitation

BK2705054292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 May 92

["Text" of letter from Khieu Samphan, head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council, to Son Sann, member of the Supreme National Council and president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front—dated 20 May; read by announcer]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 20 May 1992

To His Excellency Son Sann, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], Phnom Penh.

Esteemed Excellency: I am very glad to be invited to attend the KPNLF's second congress to be held in Phnom Penh on 21 and 22 May 1992.

On behalf of the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] party and in my own name, I would like to extend best wishes for success to the second congress of the KPNLF headed by your excellency.

Your excellency and your colleagues, and I and my colleagues together with our two parties have all along cooperated splendidly in waging the protracted struggle to realize our sacred cause, that is to enable our beloved Cambodian motherland to enjoy genuine peace and independence. We have also made joint efforts in bringing about the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991.

I am firmly convinced that we will continue to closely cooperate and join our forces in contribution to a correct implementation of the Paris agreement to affect a total withdrawal of the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressor forces so as to enable all of us to achieve national reconciliation in a liberal democratic regime.

May your excellency enjoy a perfect health and all-round success in your noble patriotic mission.

Please, your excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, member of the SNC and head of the DK party.

Indonesia

Sutrisno Decries U.S. Call To End Bilateral Aid

BK2605130792 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 May 92 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno decries the recent call by a United States congressman for an end to all bilateral assistance to Indonesia because he believes it is endorsed by a very few persons.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with President Suharto at Bina Graha [Presidential Office] yesterday, Try said that "It is their right to do it, because they are paid for that. But we should not forget that the proposal was made by a meaningless number of people."

Representative Tony Hall (Democrat from Ohio) on Friday [15 May] introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives calling for the termination of bilateral assistance and suspension of the Generalized System of Preference trade benefits for Indonesian products because of what he called "Indonesian human rights violations in East Timor", press reports said.

The bill would also require the U.S. representative to the World Bank to oppose any loans to Jakarta.

Try said he was convinced that there were other groups in the U.S. Congress who had their eyes and ears open and knew exactly how good U.S.-Indonesian relations were. He said Indonesia was a self confident nation which had done a lot of good things.

"They should not use their yardstick to evaluate our performances because we have our own criteria."

He denied allegations that Indonesia had violated human rights. He said this country has demonstrated its understanding by allowing people from any part of the world, whether they are government officials or members of parliament, to visit here "as long as they are not troublemakers."

According to Try, Indonesia had only closed the door to those who wanted to create trouble here. "If they only want to paint bad pictures of this country, why should they come here?"

According to Try, in the post-Cold War era, the most important thing to do was to work for the people's welfare. "Speaking bad about other people is a thing of the past."

Asked whether there had been any infringements of the rule of the game during the current electoral campaign, Try said "yes", adding that he did not expect there would be none. "But I warn them not to go too far."

Minister on Establishment of New Donor Group

BK2205130592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0953 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] New York, May 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—Membership in the Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI), the country's newly set up donor consortium, will be larger than in the defunct Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), a senior minister said here Thursday, declining, however, to go into details about the issue.

Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance and Industry Radius Prawiro told ANTARA that the countries and organizations to become CGI members will only be known after the group holds its first meeting on July 16, in Paris.

CGI, which is led by the World Bank, replaced the IGGI after Jakarta on March 25 demanded the dissolution of the Holland-led group for reasons that the Hague frequently used foreign aid as an instrument of political intimidation.

The World Bank has decided that CGI members will not be limited to former IGGI members and is inviting countries or organizations to the group's coming two-day meeting in Paris, it will consult the Indonesian Government.

Several countries formerly not members of the IGGI are known to have expressed interests in fulfilling the World Bank invitation to Paris, while former members have also been keen in continuing assistance to Indonesia.

Prawiro further said that the World Bank believes some countries and organizations outside IGGI are capable of becoming donors to Indonesia.

Among the organizations likely to be invited to Paris are the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Kuwait Development Fund and a Nordic regional bank, ANTARA sources revealed.

Jakarta's decision to stop receiving Dutch aid and demand the dissolution of IGGI has been lauded by many third world countries as it reflected the guts to refuse aid with political strings attached.

IGGI, formerly was Indonesia's major Western donor consortium comprising 14 countries—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Holland, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

It also includes four international lending agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The World Bank officially announced it agreed to chair CGI in a letter dated April [words indistinct] addressed to Jakarta.

The Hague has also supported the setting up of the CGI, saying that it will continue encouraging other countries and multilateral organizations to extend their assistance to Indonesia.

IGGI for the 1991/92 fiscal year pledged 4.74 billion U.S. dollars, of which Holland extended 91.3 million U.S. dollars, or 1.9 percent of the total, far less than Japan's 1.3 billion U.S. dollars and the United States' 133 million U.S. dollars.

Prawiro is now here for talks with the UNDP which reports said linked, in one way or another, to the setting up the CGI.

Paper Expresses Concern Over Crisis in Bangkok

BK2605154292 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Crisis in Bangkok"]

[Text] What many people feared has finally happened in Thailand. Even as confusion prevailed and uncertainty lingered over the precise number of demonstrators killed in the anti-Suchinda demonstrations in Bangkok yesterday, international news agency reports received here yesterday appeared to indicate that at least five were killed, and 180 were injured, while the conflict was far from over.

Worse, however, there seems no way under the prevailing circumstances to say what the immediate fate of the country will be. It seems hard to believe, whatever the eventual solution may be, that the country can emerge from the present crisis unscathed in the sense that it is not very likely that it can continue to exist, pretending that nothing serious has happened. Some fundamental changes, in whatever direction, seem to be in store if stability is to be restored in the longer run. As for the present, the situation appears chaotic.

With both sides seemingly unwilling to budge, it remains to be seen how far the anti-government groups are prepared to go to push through their demand for the resignation of the non-elected prime minister, Suchinda Khraprayun. In a defiant statement issued yesterday, the protesters vowed to stay put, saying that to give in would be tantamount to accepting a military dictatorship for at least the next decade. That leaves it up to the military to resolve whether or not they are prepared to risk a further bloodbath to test the staying power of the protesters.

All in all, it may not be an exaggeration to say that the present violence constitutes the worst crisis Thailand has seen since the 1970s, when similar protests disrupted normal life in Bangkok for a while. By late yesterday, fears of further bloodshed appeared far from imaginary as the military were reported to have called in reinforcements, while demonstrators were moving towards a number of vital government buildings.

It is perhaps useful to remember, however, that in the face of such crises, the Thais have in the past shown a rather remarkable aptitude for resolving them adequately. The country has seen 17 coups, failed or successful, in the past 60 years. As we remarked before, the political theories and the lessons drawn from experiences in other countries do not always apply in this Buddhist monarchy. Certainly it is of the greatest importance for a country such as Thailand, which depends heavily on tourist revenues, to see peace restored.

There is however, more at stake. It is certainly no coincidence that the country became one of the fastest, if not the fastest, growing economy and the biggest draw for foreign investments in Southeast Asia in the past decade, when overall stability prevailed. Perhaps, in a sense, the current upheaval is one of the consequences of that economic growth and social progress. As is true everywhere in Southeast Asia, economic progress must have wrought some fundamental changes and given birth to rising demands in Thailand as well.

It is of course not for us to say what is best for the Thais. Our only hope is that all the parties involved in the current conflict may see reason before too much damage is done. The first to benefit from stability and continued growth are, of course, the Thais themselves. In these days more than ever, practically no country lives in isolation. For that reason it is in the interest of us all to hope that growth and stability may soon return to Thailand.

Suharto Says 'No' to Limit on Presidential Term

BK2605143892 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 May 92 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—President Suharto disagrees with the idea that presidential term of office should be limited.

The People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) would violate the 1945 Constitution if it decided to limit the presidential term of office, chairman of the Kosgoro organization [Federation of Cooperating Multipurpose Organizations] quoted the president as saying here yesterday.

Suprapto, the chairman of the Golkar [Functional Group]-oriented organization, met with Suharto at Bina Graha [Presidential Office] to discuss the idea which has been aired here during the electoral campaign now underway.

The MPR will meet next year to elect a new president and vice president and to decide on the guidelines of the state policy for the next five years.

The Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), one of the three political groups contesting the June 9 polls, called for a strict limitation of the presidential term of office in a campaign rally here last week.

Suharto is believed to be planning to run for a fifth term next year with no visible opposition.

Suprapto, former governor of Bengkulu, said some Kosgoro officials supported the call for the limitation of the presidential term but the organization itself would never make such an appeal.

Envoy Denies Restriction on Foreign Journalists

BK2505051092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0434 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Sydney, May 25 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia had never restricted foreign journalists visiting the country, but it has its regulations that should be observed, particularly in facing irresponsible people, said Indonesian Ambassador to Australia Sabam Siagian here over the weekend.

However, we are grateful to them as many people became informed about Indonesia through their work, he told participants of a one-day seminar, held by the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism.

Sabam, who has often been invited by Australian press organizations, pointed out that no country in the world liked its national dignity to be tarnished publicly in the press.

Asian countries, especially Indonesia, have "bitter experiences" with the foreign press' unfairness in dealing with Indonesia's problems.

The foreign press often published what they thought of a certain event, without an unbiased and in-depth description on what really happened.

As an example, he pointed to the human rights coverage in ASEAN countries by Australian media recently. According to him, the coverage was based only on the Western point of view and disregarded the views of ASEAN countries, which in fact had their own concept about matters relating to human rights.

We in Indonesia highly respect human rights as this was mentioned in our constitution and constitute one of the basic principles of the Pancasila [state ideology]. Also the improvement of our people's welfare was the result of appreciation of the human rights, he stressed.

Saying that the Australian Government has built a strong foundation for cooperation with ASEAN countries, particularly Indonesia, he hoped that the good bilateral relations should not be soured by the media's irresponsible coverage.

He also urged the seminar participants, who consisted of general managers of the media in New South Wales, academicians and foreign and local journalists, to further study the cultures and political systems of the ASEAN countries.

Official Discloses New Satellite Orbital Position

BK2205163192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0828 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—The 2.17-m diameter antenna of the Palapa B-4 communication satellite will start to extend beginning at 0600 West Indonesia Time on Friday.

The process would take 12 hours, three hours after the satellite reached its fixed orbit on 118 degrees East Longitude.

According to Nyoman Sri Karyana, orbit analyst at the main control station in Cibinong, some 40 km south of here, disclosed on Wednesday that in the course of the deployment, the extention of the solar drum will take place, so that the height of the satellite will reach 6.96 meters.

Palapa B-4, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, last week, is now in a position 117.503 degrees East Longitude, and kept moving to the east and is scheduled to reach a position on the orbit 118 degrees East Longitude at 0300 West Indonesia Time on Friday.

The process of the antenna deployment and the extension of the solar drum take place in a fixed position of the satellite on 118 degrees East Longitude under the full control of the Cibinong earth station.

During the process, the satellite's rotation would be maintained at the normal 50 rpm.

On its way to its fixed orbit in the geostationary orbit at an altitude of 36,000 km above the earth's surface, the satellite will conduct several maneuvers for reorientation of its attitude which had been conducted in three stages Wednesday night.

During the maneuver, the satellite's speed would be around 3057 meters per second, which would be constantly slowed down to reach a drift-off when the satellite has reached a position 118 degrees East Longitude, to be followed by a bus test.

The test would last four days starting on Saturday at 0700 till Tuesday at 1600 West Indonesia Time.

Only then will a com-test be conducted on the communication equipment in the Hughes-built HS.376-type setellite covering 30 broadcasting cylinders consisting of 24 transponders and six reserve units. The com-test is slated to last a week.

After all the tests have been completed, Palapa B-4 would start full operations sometime between June 4 and 6.

The satellite will then be encircling its geostationary orbit at the earth rotation speed of three km per second.

In the meantime, Palapa B-1, whose operational services have come to a conclusion, will be replaced by Palapa B-4, currently moving toward a position 134 degrees East Longitude, which it is scheduled to reach early in July.

Palapa-I is being moved away slowly to save fuel, Nyoman Sri said.

Laos

Phoumi Vongvichit Visits Luang Prabang Cadres

BK2205115892 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 22 (KPL)—Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit, advisor to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee (LPRP CC), has recently visited the northern Luang Prabang Province and talked to local cadres.

The talk was attended by Mr. Khampheui Chanthasouk, member of the provincial party committee and president of the provincial chapter of the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC); members of the provincial party committee; governor of Luang Prabang; venerable buddhist monks; cadres; officers and LFNC members totalling almost 200.

Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit, in his talk, pointed to the changing situation in the world, in particular the subversive acts against socialist system in Europe, in the Middle East, and other socialist countries by enemies. He further went on to the enemies' tricks to subvert our country at present and in the future, especially the peaceful evolution.

He also touched upon the LPRP's policy towards pensioners and the handicapped.

He also called on the general public, especially in Luang Prabang, to raise vigilance and actively implement the party's policy and observe the laws. The call was also made to leading cadres to fulfill their duties.

The general public of Luang Prabang, on the occasion, also organised a wishing ceremony, Basi, for Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit and his party.

Technical Aid From Asian Development Bank Noted

BK2505114192 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 25 (KPL)—The Asian Development Bank has approved a D[dollar]100,000 technical assistance grant to Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) to prepare a study on income-generating avenues for the poorer sectors of Lao PDR, particularly women.

The study will identify profitable small-scale or agricultural income-generating opportunity in the countryside where the majority of the population, especially women, are engaged in subsistence agriculture of performing unpaid labor-intensive tasks with scarce technical know-how and without the benefit of water, energy sources, transportation and marketing networks.

The study, to be administered by the bank, will identify infrastructure and marketing constraints and measures to overcome them. It will also analyze target market needs and the role of micro-credit in optimizing income-generating opportunities. Results of the study will be used to design a pilot micro-credit and training program.

The Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning, the executing agency for the technical assistance, will coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts and liaise with the Lao Women's Union, selected state and commercial banks, particularly the joint development bank, and non-governmental organizations.

Consultants for the technical assistance will be recruited in accordance with the bank's guidelines on the use of consultants.

Hydropower Projects Accord Signed With UNDP

BK2605144092 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 26 (KPL)—An agreement on hydropower aid projects from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the Lao People's Democratic Republic was signed at the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, Vientiane prefecture, yesterday.

The signatories were Mr. Alounkeo, director of the International Organisations Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Ameera Haq-perera, UNDP resident representative in Laos. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Bounkeut, deputy-minister of industry and handicraft.

The agreement stipulates that the UNDP will grant to Laos U.S. dollars 593,500 for the survey of water sources for the construction of hydro-power stations across the country. Among them are Ngiap River in Bolikhamsai Province, Nam Ngum project 2 in Vientiane Province, Ham River in Sayaboury Province, Sekong basin, and Nam Theun 1 and 2 project, and others.

Philippines

Senators Urge Rejection of Nuclear Plant Deal

HK2605120092 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 26 May 92 p 4

[By Jose H. Macaspac III]

[Text] Thirteen senators yesterday asked Congress to reject the controversial proposed agreement between the

Philippine government and Westinghouse Corporation involving the rehabilitation of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

The Senators' move, contained in a resolution authored by Senator Wigberto Tanada, also asked the government to pursue charges of fraud against Westinghouse and the financial firms involved in the deal.

But Malacanang quickly stepped in by insisting that the resolution was premature, as the decision was premised on whether the plant "could be upgraded and repaired to meet the most current and rigorous worldwide safety standards."

The 12 other senators who signed the resolution were: Jovito Salonga, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Alberto Romulo, Jose Lina, Ernesto Herrera, Sotero Laurel, Victor Ziga, Orlando Mercado, Teofisto Guingona Jr., Joseph Estrada, Mamintal Tamano and Heherson Alvarez.

Tanada argued that the proposed settlement "does not render justice to the Filipino people."

He said the terms of the agreement were grossly unfair to the Philippines which had already been cheated of an efficient nuclear reactor and forced to pay the fraudulent loan covering the construction of the plant.

Under the agreement, the Philippines will receive a measly sum of $10 million in cash and $90 million in credits.

On the other hand, Westinghouse will receive $40 million yearly for 30 years as fee to rebuild and operate the plant.

The Philippine government would also have to come up with $400 [as published] to upgrade the plant.

Tanada presented the following arguments against reopening the plant:

1) The irreparable defects of the plant as well as the volcanic and seismic hazards existing in its site in Morong, Bataan;

2) Westinghouse cannot provide any guaranteed safety mechanisms to manage and dispose of radioactive waste and to decommission the plant;

3) the operation of the plant would pose threats to the environment and the people's health;

For his part, however, Senator Rene Saguisag, one of the proponents of the out-of-court settlement, said the case should be decided by the next Congress.

Saguisag said the present Congress does not have enough time to deliberate and decide on the agreement since it has so many tasks to accomplish, including the canvassing of the votes for president and vice president.

But Secretary Sedrey Ordonez, head of the Presidential committee on the Philippine Nuclear Power Plant, warned that the resolution was premature, as an independent panel formed to conduct a study on the viability of the plant's repair and upgrade had only now begun its review.

Ordonez said the three-man panel was chaired by Dr. Joseph Hendrie, former chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. agency that regulated all commercial nuclear power plants. Ordonez identified the two other members of the panel as Dr Yih Yun Hsu and Dr. Michiko Ishikawa, both distinguished scientists in their field.

Ordonez said the three nuclear scientists would be able to complete their review and submit a report to President Aquino by July 15.

"If, and only if, this independent panel confirms that the (BNPP) meets the highest current safety standards can there be a settlement," Ordonez said.

Aquino Opposes Reopening Plant

HK2705023792 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Malacanang has objected to the proposal to operate the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP] despite the worsening power crisis. President Aquino said that she will oppose the operation of the plant until the plant's safety is guaranteed.

It will be recalled that under the Philippine-Westinghouse agreement, Westinghouse will reconstruct the plant to meet with international safety standards within three years. The primary obstacle to the operation of the nuclear plant is the question of its safety.

With a generating power of 620 mw, the BNPP's reopening is expected to solve the country's energy crisis. However, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that the president is leaving it up to the next Congress to determine whether the plant will be reopened.

Meanwhile, big industries in Metro Manila have warned that they might be forced to lay-off workers to make up for losses caused by the daily power outages experienced throughout Luzon.

Raul Concepcion, Joint Sector Task Force on Power chairman, said that from March to 24 May, the businesses in the franchise area of Meralco [Manila Electric Company] have lost 20 billion Philippine pesos due to the ongoing power crisis. However, according to Concepcion, this figure is merely a conservative estimate. Compared to the three-shift pattern followed by most of the big factories in the country prior to the power crisis, businesses now can only operate a two-shift pattern, forcing these factories to lay-off workers, especially those paid on a daily basis.

The energy crisis will greatly affect the garments and teleconductor industries which, according to Concepcion, are finding it difficult to meet the quotas of their foreign buyers due to the daily power outages.

Congress Fails To Pass Succession Bill

HK2705021892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Congress was prevented from passing the Presidential Succession Act before its final session. The Senate leadership had vowed earlier that they would pass the bill, but this was stymied owing to opposition from Representative Raul Roco of Camarines Sur. Senator Joey Lina, who authored the bill, and Senators Neptali Gonzales and Rene Saguisag expressed sadness over Congress' failure to give priority to the bill. Lina said the country would face problems if the new president is not proclaimed on 30 June.

The Presidential Succession Bill stipulates that the new Senate head or the speaker of the House of Representatives would be made interim president while the new president and vice president remain unproclaimed. Similarly, if no leaders are chosen in both houses of Congress, the Supreme Court Chief Justice will become interim president.

Secretary Drilon on Transition of Power

HK2605120992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 26 May 92

[Interview with Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon by Joe Taruc in "Liberty in Action" program—live; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] [Taruc] Good morning, everyone. We have with us this morning Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon. Good morning, Mr. Secretary.

[Drilon] Good morning, Joe. Good morning to all our listeners here at DZRH.

[Taruc] We know for a fact that your office is now busy preparing for the transition of power between President Aquino and the incoming president. As the chairman of the transition committee, could you explain to us what it is that you actually do?

[Drilon] As you know, Joe, since last year, when President Aquino decided not to run for reelection, she instructed us to begin *transition work* so that the transfer of power to the next administration will go smoothly. The peaceful and orderly transition of power is very important because it will reflect the stability of our nation.

When this was first brought before me, I had to look for reference materials on this matter at Malacanang. However, we noticed that there was none because....[Drilon, changes thought] When we went around asking those who have been at Malacanang for a long time about this subject, we were reminded that the last time that there was a peaceful transition of power was in 1965. And from that time on up to now, 1992, there has not been a peaceful change in administration. What happened in 1986 was a revolution, so actually there was no transition.

That is why President Aquino ordered the formation of a transition team that will ensure the orderly transition of power to the next administration.

[Taruc] So how did your office go about doing this task, Mr. Secretary? Is it true that the transition you conceptualized was patterned after those of other countries?

[Drilon] No, Joe. Actually, we availed of a grant, wherein we sent one of our assistants to Washington to research how this was done there, *because that is the model that we would like to use.* What we did, Joe, was to assign a transition coordinator for every department, the Department of Justice, Department of Labor, etc. These transition coordinators made briefing papers outlining what the department was like, its completed and ongoing projects, its immediate problems, laws it needed amending or passing by Congress, and who were the personalities and directors of these departments and their respective backgrounds.

These papers were then submitted to us and we synthesized them and converted them into a readable form. *Now, the moment that Secretary Ramos is proclaimed and he has named his cabinet,* these papers would be given to the incoming secretaries of the different departments. This way, even if their administration has not started—although we hope that Secretary Ramos will have a cabinet by the middle of June—they could already start studying these papers so that, come July, everything will go smoothly because they already know what they are supposed to do.

[Taruc] *In other words, there is already a transition program* which the incumbent administration has prepared?

[Drilon] It is already prepared, Joe, and we have great faith that the transition of power will go peacefully and smoothly.

I would like to emphasize one note, Joe. We have prepared a list of government officials and employees, who have taken the civil service examination and are entitled to *career executive service eligibility....*

[Taruc, interrupts] Those that are protected by the Civil Service Law?

[Drilon] Those protected by the Civil Service Law; political appointees who can be replaced by the incoming administration, simply because they are political appointees.

So everything is prepared for the incoming...[Drilon, changes thought] For the proclamation of the new president. We just have to explain these things to them.

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, there is something that we have noticed with regard to the transition program; let us say that one or two of these public officials were guilty of an anomaly in their department or office, are they accountable for these things? Can the next administration pursue these people?

[Drilon] The transition program, Joe, does not include the *quick claim*. This means that their accountability for these things is of a different nature. *They are governed by standard Commission on Audit regulations*, which requires them to have a clearance before they can claim any of their benefits. It is different, Joe, and it has no bearing on transition of power.

However, with regard to property accountability, let us say that if a chair was issued to you on a memorandum receipt, this would be included in the physical assets report of the transition....

[Taruc, interrupts] Is that so?

[Drilon] Yes.

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, so this transition program that you have prepared is applicable to whoever the next president will be, the one whom the Congress will proclaim?

[Drilon] That is correct. There is no indication of who will make up the next administration. The important thing here is for us to have a peaceful transition of power come 2 July.

[Taruc] One of the statements made by President Aquino yesterday was about the *hands-off policy* on the composition of the next president's cabinet. Can you explain this, Mr. Secretary?

[Drilon] You know, Joe, there has been a lot of speculation in the newspapers about President Aquino interfering. This basically was brought about by her endorsement of Secretary Ramos and her active participation in his campaign. And people might say that *Eddie Ramos is Cory Aquino in pants*. As the president said yesterday, she does not want to interfere. *Ramos will have his own cabinet* and the people can see for themselves how he will run the government. He has his own set of people whom he would like to install in his cabinet. President Aquino does not want to interfere in Eddie Ramos' decision on who to install in the different departments. It is really up to him.

[Taruc] There are rumors that you, Mr. Secretary, are one of those cabinet secretaries who will be retained by the incoming president, especially in the administration of Secretary Ramos. As the executive secretary, are you prepared to serve in the same capacity for the second time around?

[Drilon] It is better if we leave that question for Secretary Ramos to answer *because I don't want to be presumptive*. We helped him out, yes; but as the whole country knows, we helped him out because we believed that he was rightfully the next president of the country. *Beyond that, Joe, it is not proper for me to make any comments.*

[Taruc] Has Secretary Ramos asked your opinion on what criteria he should use in the choice of his cabinet members?

[Drilon] No, Joe, he has not. [passage omitted]

[Taruc] Secretary Drilon, a lot of our listeners are wondering how the president is reacting to the news that while her endorsed presidential candidate is winning, her endorsed vice presidential candidate is trailing behind and only two of her senatorial candidates have made it to the *Magic 24*. What is President Aquino's reaction with regard to these events?

[Drilon] This only goes to show that we had a clean election. There are those who say that the election was marred by massive fraud and blame us at Malacanang as the perpetrators of this fraud. If this was really the case, would we allow Joseph Estrada as the vice president? Would we allow only two of our senatorial bets to make it?

This, Joe, only goes to show that the election *was, by and large*, a clean one. The people were free to choose whom they would like to install into power.

We accept these as part of Philippine politics.

[Taruc] With these results, can the president still consider her campaigning for this party, where only its president is winning while its vice president and senators are trailing behind, a success?

[Drilon] *Joe, in this....[Drilon, changes thought] You cannot win everything. As they say, President Aquino tried her best. Secretary Ramos won, our vice president lost*, and only two of our senatorial candidates have entered the top 24 slots; but all of these were accepted by President Aquino as the results of peaceful elections. [passage omitted]

[Taruc] From Art Gonzales of Santa Mesa: Do you see any criminal charges or complaints being filed against President Aquino after her term as president ends?

[Drilon] That I think is a wrong....[Drilon, changes thought] *President Aquino governed on the basis of honesty and sincerity* and I see no charges being filed against her.

[Taruc] From Nicanor Borromeo of Quezon City, he says: It is possible for Ramos to become the next president of our republic. Which of President Aquino's projects does she want Ramos to continue?

[Drilon] Secretary Ramos already made a statement yesterday about the *five areas that she [the president] would want immediately looked at*. One of these things would be the peace and order situation. This includes the insurgency problem with the leftists and the rightists.

Another would be the resolution of our energy problems. Then there is the matter of our foreign debts which need to be reviewed very well.

Now, when asked which of President Aquino's programs should be continued, one of those programs, *which nobody can dispute, is her firm belief in strengthening our democracy and running an honest and sincere government. So, these are some of the guiding principles which I think President Aquino would like to see carried through in the next administration.* [passage omitted]

Ramos Consults Aquino on Forming New Cabinet

HK2705033292 Quezon City MALAYA in English 27 May 92 p 9

[Text] Frontrunner Fidel Ramos met with President Aquino yesterday to consult her on prospective Cabinet members.

Ramos said he has listed four to five names for every Cabinet post, but declined to name them, saying he is at the moment "conducting a talent search for maximum efficiency."

Ramos also declined to name Cabinet members he might retain. When pressed, he grinned broadly and said, "Whom would you suggest?"

Ramos was accompanied by his runningmate Emilio Osmena and the entire Senate slate of Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats].

The President also met with Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief. The two assured her that there is no immediate threat from both rightist and leftist rebels.

Later, Ramos met with U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner for a discussion of the general political and military situation in Asia and the Pacific.

Santiago Complains to Bush About Election Fraud

HK2505010292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] People's Reform Party candidate Miriam Santiago has told American President George Bush about alleged cheating during the elections in the Philippines. Santiago said she has told Bush that her campaign was overwhelmed by fraud during the 11 May election, and she asked him to send a letter of concern to the country about a clean ballot being crucial to democracy. She said she was confident that the Philippine Congress would heed her protests once the official tabulation began.

Santiago has been fasting for three days at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City to protest what she calls the fraudulent canvassing of votes. She is only drinking tea and taking vitamins.

During the past four days of vote canvassing, the former Secretary of Agrarian Reform has been in third place in the presidential race. Fidel Ramos continues to lead, followed by Eduardo Cojuangco.

Ramos Seeks To Shed 'American Boy' Image

HK2605090192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 26 May 92 p 3

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Front-runner presidential candidate Fidel V. Ramos yesterday vowed he would be a different president from his predecessor, Mrs. Corazon Aquino.

"I would not be a xerox copy of President Aquino," Ramos told the weekly "Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila Coffee Klatch]" forum at the Manila Hotel. "She is unique in her own way, she cannot be copied."

Similarly, he is also trying to shed his "American Boy" (Amboy) image, convincing the people that he is more nationalist than any other politicians around "who seek sanctuary in the United States in times of crisis."

Ramos, the standard-bearer of the Lakas NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats], is trying to shed off his "Cory image" in reaction to personal attacks by his rivals and critics that he would be a lameduck president or the male version of Mrs. Aquino's brand of presidency.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago of the People's Reform Party (PRP), one of his closest rivals in the presidential race, had once called Ramos as a clone of Mrs. Aquino, "Cory na naka-pantalon [Cory in Trousers]."

Mrs. Aquino's brand of leadership has been under fire for her alleged weakness and indecisiveness. Her critics labelled her a "lameduck President."

Just to prove his point, Ramos said he would not release any prisoners when he assumed office after winning the elections like what Mrs. Aquino did when she was swept into power six years ago.

Ramos argued that the situation now is very much different from the situation in February 1986 when Mrs. Aquino rose to power after the ouster of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"Mrs. Aquino did not jail any political prisoners," he said, adding that most of the persons put to jail during her six-year term were "those guilty of violating our penal code."

"They were jailed because they committed various crimes and not for their political beliefs," he said.

Ramos said he would be very different from Mrs. Aquino because he has a different character and personality, different background, training, experience and capabilities.

"Iba ang pagka-tao ni Eddie Ramos [The make-up of Ramos is different]," he added.

But he vowed to continue the positive programs and policies initiated by the Aquino government, especially in giving the people more chance to participate in the political as well as economic decision-making.

Ramos also promised not to make the same mistakes his predecesors had committed, assuring the people that the energy problem would be on top of his agenda once he assumed office.

He also offered to privatize some parts of the state-owned National Power Corporation (NPC) which has been struggling from its huge deficits and debts.

For his first 100 days, Ramos vowed to pursue a five-point program aimed at attracting foreign investments and tourists, enhancing exports and remittances from overseas contract workers (OCWs) to resuscitate the slumping economy; streamline the bloated bureaucracy and reduce graft and corruption; protect and preserve the environment; and explore and develop alternative energy and power sources.

His immediate agenda, however, is focused on unifying the country, establishing political stability and getting popular and national consensus from a multi-party government.

Although he favored continuing talks with the armed enemies of the Republic—the right-wing rebel soldiers and the communist guerrillas—Ramos ruled out an outright amnesty during his first 100 days in office once Congress proclaimed him as the president.

Ramos said amnesty "is a joint act of the Executive and Congress."

He said he has been labelled as an "Amboy" by his critics just because he trained at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point right after the Second World War.

But he countered that he opted to join the local armed forces than stay in the United States, earning his commission as a second lieutenant in 1950 with a meager P250 [Philippine peso] a month salary.

"I have not entertained any offers from any foreign entities, government or private organizations to work for them, I stayed here even during crises," he said.

He took potshots at one of his rivals for writing the American president to intervene in the post-election period in the country.

"I will never do that; this is an internal problem," he said.

Ramos, however, offered to pursue an open foreign policy, strengthening relations with ASEAN and other East Asian countries, like Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea.

Congress Canvassing; To Finish in 5-10 Days

HK2705060792 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 27 May 92

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] The Congress will start today the actual canvassing of votes for the president and vice president. Last night, both houses of Congress ratified the guidelines to be followed during the canvassing of votes. The legislators said that there was no delay in the canvassing of votes since the law states that tabulation should begin 30 days after the election.

Senate President Neptali Gonzales first opened the certificates of canvass from Camiguin, which was the first to arrive at the Senate, before tabulation was turned over to the canvassing committee. The canvassing committee is composed of seven senators, led by Senator Teofisto Guingona, and seven congressmen, led by Congressman Ronaldo Zamora. Congress is scheduled to count 94 certificates of canvass, but as of last night, it only had 67.

Meanwhile, Acting House Speaker Antonio Cuenco said that Congress will be able to proclaim the next president and vice president within their next five to 10 session days. He stressed that the results of the Congress tabulation will be accurate, official, and credible.

[Begin Cuenco recording] *We are very sure that the results of the Congress canvass will be credible. It is the accurate count. It is the official count.* The canvassing committee members are very meticulous on both sides. The committee has 14 members: seven from the Senate and seven from the lower house. *And they will be very meticulous about the authenticity and [word indistinct] of the certificates of canvass.* So we are assured that there will be no cheating in this tabulation. This is accurate and official. *We are very confident that in about five to 10 session days,* we can finish the counting and proclaim the country's next president and vice president. [end recording]

Upper, Lower Houses To Begin Final Vote Count

HK2505022292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Senate and the House of Representatives will begin separate sessions today, their last under the Aquino administration. On May 26, both houses will concentrate on tabulating the votes for president and vice president who are to be proclaimed during the formal swearing in on 30 June.

The Senate will pass a resolution initiating the joint session of the upper and lower Houses. The Senate is also expected to pass the Presidential Succession Act, during a joint session to be set up by an official committee made up of five senators and five congressmen in charge of the tabulation.

Meanwhile Congress has given assurances that it will proclaim the president and vice president on 30 June. Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio Cuenco said Congress will have the quorum necessary to begin the official canvassing. He said he expects a majority of legislators to form a quorum today during the opening session.

Of 156 legislators who ran for re-election on 11 May, 84 won; 54 percent. Congress will utilize a total of 94 certificates of canvass for the tabulation. This covers 73 provinces, 11 towns, nine districts, and one absentee voting [as heard]. Congress will do all in its power to speed up deliveries of canvass certificates.

Ramos Still Leading in Quick Count Results

HK2705092492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Administration candidate Fidel Ramos continues to lead People's Reform Party's Miriam Defensor Santiago by over a million votes in the presidential race. Based on the latest Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] nationwide unofficial tabulation, Ramos has 4,240,549 votes against Santiago's 3,167,515 votes. Danding Cojuangco comes next with 3,149,707, followed by Ramon Mitra Jr. with 2,689,570. Imelda Marcos, Jovito Salonga and Salvador Laurel lag behind in that order.

In the vice presidential race, Joseph Estrada leads with 4,963,795 votes, followed by Marcelo Fernan, Lito Osmena, Ramon Magsaysay, Aquilino Nene Pimentel, Vic Magsaysay and Eva Estrada Kalaw.

Meanwhile, here are the top 30 senators based on the same MCQC count. Tito Sotto still leads with 8,630,349 votes, followed by Ramon Revilla with 6,072,169 and Edgardo Angara with 6,004,153. Those three are followed by Senator [as heard] Herrera, Maceda, Romulo, Mercado, Alvarez, Gonzales, Shahani, Ople, Webb, Macapagal, Guingona, Razul, Lina, Coseteng, Tolentino, Roco, Biazon, Osmena, Aquino, Tatad, Tanada, Bengzon, Padilla, Aguirre, Concepcion, Bello and Tamano.

Abadia Says New Leaders Proclaimed by 30 Jun

HK2505145192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 25 may 92

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is confident the country's new president and vice president will be proclaimed before 30 June and is now preparing for briefings and a welcome parade for the new president who will also become the military's commander in chief.

In a special command conference at Camp Aguinaldo today, General Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief, said he hopes the congressional board of canvassers will do their job without being influenced by anything or anyone. The AFP chief admitted that the counting of votes has been slow. He said there are proposals by some AFP top commanders to prevent this from reoccuring, like the simplification of electoral procedures and wide use of computers and electronic transmission methods, as long as they come with fraud and manipulation safeguards. Abadia added that he will give President Aquino a final briefing by mid June to inform her of the military's accomplishments during her term. The new president and commander in chief will be honored by a parade and marathon briefings two weeks after the inauguration on 30 June.

Aquino Rejects Estrada as Acting President

HK2405012592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 May 92

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has today rejected the possible proclamation of Senator Joseph Estrada as acting president by the Congress, saying she is confident the legislators will proclaim the country's president- and vice president-elect at the same time. She clarified that because of the simultaneous proclamation, there will be no power vacuum and therefore there is no reason to designate Estrada as acting president.

The vice-presidential tally evidently shows that Estrada will be the country's next vice president. Administration candidate Fidel Ramos, on the other hand, continues to lead in the presidential race.

However, several candidates have been contesting the canvassing of votes, saying that there was widespread cheating. Many legislators have already expressed the fear that a new president may not be proclaimed before 30 June.

The Constitution's rule on succession states that should there be no proclamation of a president, the person proclaimed as vice president should act as the country's highest official.

Some have also expressed the fear that many protests could be filed in relation to the presidential race, leading them to believe that Estrada may even be acting president for six years.

President Aquino, however, said that based on her conversation with Senators Agapito Aquino and Rene Saguisag on Monday [18 May], they told her the votes for both the presidential and vice presidential positions will be counted at the same time. She added that there are no pre-proclamation protests filed in relation to the two top positions. She stressed that people should not make a lot of fuss on such issues and asserted that the Congress will proclaim the country's next president and vice president simultaneously.

[Begin recording] [Aquino in English—in progress]...will not be proclaimed as acting president. He will be proclaimed as vice president. The two of them will go together. Because I cannot say that it will be done separately because when I talked to both Senator Saguisag and Senator Aquino, they imagine as they count the votes for the vice president, they also be doing [as heard] for the president. So, I am confident that both will be proclaimed at the same time.

[Reporter] Ma'am, some say there may be complaints regarding the presidential position.

[Aquino in English] No. Anyway there are no preproclamation protests submitted yet. [end recording]

Cardinal Sin Comments on Election Process

HK2705031292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Jaime Cardinal Sin, Manila archbishop, has expressed the belief that no widespread fraud and terrorism occurred during the recent election. However, Sin criticized the reported buying of votes which occurred in certain places. He said he was happy that the expected untoward incidents did not take place, but he said it was unfortunate that some politicians engaged in bribery to buy the votes of the poor and to maintain the status quo of the rich.

At the same time, Sin praised President Aquino for preparing for an orderly transfer of power to the next president.

Aquino Brother, Sister-in-Law Proclaimed Winners

HK2305022592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Commission on Elections has proclaimed the wife-and-husband team of Margarita and Peping Cojuangco the legitimate winners in Tarlac. Reports say Peping has won in the first district of Tarlac, while his wife, Ting-Ting, has clinched the governor's post. She won over Henry Cojuangco, presidential candidate Eduardo Cojuangco's younger brother.

Security Forces on Alert To Protect Canvassing

HK2705051692 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and Philippine National Police [PNP] have been put on red alert in light of several reports that several sectors of society, including the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance, are planning to disrupt Congress' canvassing of votes.

According to PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno, the police and military will be closely guarding Congress over the next few days. This is despite assurances from lawmakers that they will be able to proclaim the next president and vice president by the set deadline. Both General Nazareno and General Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief of staff, hope that the proclamation of the next president and vice president will not be hampered by any violence.

Meanwhile, Malacanang called on rebel soldiers to respect the will of the people as expressed in the elections last 11 May.

Aquino Reaction to Coup Threats, Power Transition

HK2705103292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 27 May 92

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Text] Malacanang has assured that it will continue to remain vigilant to prevent any attempts by rebel soldiers to seize power from the government during the last 34 days of the Aquino administration.

At the same time, the palace also discounted the possibility of further dialogues with the rebel soldiers. President Corazon Aquino said it was evident that all the steps taken by the government in preventing coup attempts were successful. Her statements followed reports of four Air Force members who were arrested while attempting to recruit helicopter pilots to attack Malacanang and several military installations.

Meanwhile, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said that this is not the right time to consider possible dialogues with the rebel soldiers. What is needed now, he said, is vigilance against any attempt to take power. He added that the government will let the next administration take the appropriate steps to talk to the rebel soldiers and resolve this problem.

Meanwhile, President Aquino welcomed Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's statement calling on the nation to respect the election's results and his declaration that the Catholic Church is ready to help whoever will become the new president. However, Aquino clarified that this message must not be misinterpreted as reconciliatory in nature because, according to her, her good relations with Cardinal Sin were never severed despite his earlier endorsement of Ramon Mitra, Jr., Struggle of Filipino Democrats standard bearer.

Paredes said that Sin's statement will decrease the number of confrontations between winning and losing candidates.

In line with this, President Aquino is scheduled to visit today Archbishop Sin at Villa San Miguel [archbishop's palace in San Juan, Metro Manila], and the two leaders are expected to have a long discussion on the country's various issues.

The president has also assured that the government is ready to hold talks with the Marcos family regarding the return of former President Marcos' remains whenever they reach a decision.

Meanwhile, Paredes is confident that the next administration has a great chance of succeeding, especially now that the Aquino administration has approved several of the structures and infrastructures needed to ensure continuous economic progress.

Malacanang Warns Against Coup Plot

HK2605111692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Malacanang warned all those who seek to destabilize the nation to abandon their evil plans for they will only result in failure. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] In a press briefing, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that the future of our nation greatly relies on the results of the recently concluded elections. He said the discovery made by the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] of a recent coup plot only goes to show that the military is aware of everything, including the plots of certain groups to destabilize the nation.

According to the executive secretary, these groups will not succeed because the entire AFP is prepared to defend the duly constituted authorities. [end recording]

Permission Given for Return of Marcos' Remains

HK2605111492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Malacanang has given its permission for the Marcoses to bring home the body of former President Ferdinand Marcos. In a press briefing, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said the remains of former President Marcos may be brought home only if they are brought directly to Laoag, Ilocos Norte. Earlier, the government announced that the remains of the former president would only be allowed back after the elections. The executive secretary made this announcement even before the Marcoses could reiterate their request on this matter. He also said he is simply waiting for the formal request to be made by the Marcoses before the details of the return are discussed.

Ramos Calls for Stronger ASEAN Defense

HK2605090392 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 26 May 92 p 7

[Text) Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] standard-bearer Fidel Ramos yesterday renewed his calls for greater defense and military cooperation among the six-member ASEAN nations.

Ramos, the frontrunning candidate in the presidential race, said he favored forging "closer defense and military cooperation with our neighboring countries" but slammed the door on a possible formal military alliance in the region.

He said he has been asking the ASEAN nations to pool their defense resources for military training and deterrence as well as commercial purposes even when he was still defense secretary a year ago.

"There is a need for greater interdependence in the region," he said, citing the strategic location of the country in the region, which straddled between the northern part of East Asia and the Southeast Asian region.

He said a large volume of trade and commerce was passing through the country, especially along the sea lanes of communications or SLOCs from the Middle East to the Tiger economies in East Asia, like Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The rejection of a new treaty with the United States last year, according to Ramos, might have sent "wrong signals to the other ASEAN countries."

He said he would review the "entire gamut of RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. relations" once he assumed office and correct the impression of other Asian countries on the country's open-door foreign policy.

"We can use our foreign policy and diplomacy to enhance our economic situation," he said. "The Philippines is in need of investments, more tourists and promote exports."

He said the country could only revive its economy and stabilize the political situation in the country through an open-door foreign policy.

Ramos does not support moves to create a military alliance in the region because it will create tension and attract other foreign powers to intervene in the region.

He said the new world order rejected military alliances in favor of greater cooperation in the field of trade and economy, science and technology, and culture and arts.

He cited the cooperation between Washington and the former Soviet Union in eliminating weapons of mass destruction, the main ingredient of the Cold War.

He said relations with the Americans would be reviewed to set a new perspective in terms of security, trade and commerce, and other aspects.

A close political supporter said basing would be definitely out of the question but greater access, like landing rights, port calls, and joint training and exercises might be clearly set and defined.

Thailand

Hospitals Say Most Casualties Shot From Behind

BK2705061992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 May 92 p A7

[Text] Most of the dead and injured sent to hospitals after the military crackdown had been shot or attacked from behind, indicating they were hunted down rather than being victims of a confrontation, a doctor said yesterday.

Dr. Chairat Rakrachakan, representing doctors of seven Bangkok hospitals, also said some of the demonstrators injured during the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators on Monday and Tuesday were likely to be crippled for life.

Chairat, who is a staff doctor at Ratchawitthi Hosptial, told a press conference most of the victims taken to seven hospitals in Bangkok had been shot from behind and, of them, the majority had been shot in the back of the head.

"The demonstrators were certainly running away when the military troops shot them from behind," he said.

"We cannot call the terrifying incident a confrontation between the soldiers and the protesters, but rather a hunt," Chairat said.

Some of the dead were innocent women and children, he said.

The government has put the number of dead at 40 with more than 600 injured, but eyewitnesses estimate casualties are at least double those figures.

A spokesman for the Student Federation of Thailand has said eyewitnesses reported seeing troops shoot and kill demonstrators and throw their bodies into military troop trucks before driving to an unidentified destination.

Reporters said staff of two charity foundations, Po Tek Toeng and Ruamkatanyu, who collect bodies from accident scenes, were barred by troops from carrying out their duty and removing the bodies of protesters.

Chairat said some of those shot in the crackdown and now in hospital were likely to be crippled for life.

He said he was one of the doctors who treated injured protesters in the Royal Hotel before the troops raided the building on Tuesday.

"I said to myself that I was in the heart of a war zone, not in the middle of a civilized city," the doctor said.

Commander's Message Lauds Troops' 'Restraint'

BK2705025992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 May 92 p 1

[Text] Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi have sent a message of thanks to soldiers who they said "maintained peace and order in the country with restraint and patience."

The message, which appears in an Army newsletter, is designed to give moral support to the soldiers, who are said to be demoralised after condemnation by the public and Press following the May 17-20 killings.

ACM Kaset said he is ready to take responsibility for the actions of his subordinates following his order.

Gen Itsaraphong said he, together with the deputy Army chief, the assistant Army chief and the Army chief of staff, will always be on the side of the soldiers.

Army Secretary Maj-Gen Chaturit Phromsakha na Sakon Nakhon told a press conference that the situation is returning to normal and that all soldiers must be patient and have confidence in their commanders.

Army Denies Hiding Corpses

BK2705024792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 May 92 p A1

[Text] The Army yesterday denied reports that soldiers concealed the bodies of people killed in last week's violence in remote areas.

It added that it was willing to cooperate with the press in searching for the suspected dumping sites.

Army Secretary General Lt Gen Chaturit Phromsaka na Sakon Nakhon, at a press conference, called on the families of those missing to contact the Army's public relations office right away.

Chaturit said the military's image has been tarnished after having been condemned for the brutal suppression of unarmed demonstrators last week. He added that the public's outrage has also affected soldiers' families.

He appealed to the public and the press to have pity on the military, saying they still regarded themselves as the people's armed forces.

Asked why the army did not use tear gas to disperse the crowd, Chaturit evaded giving a direct answer, saying it was useless to debate the issue now as it was already in the past.

He insisted that the military did not intend to suppress the protesters brutally.

"But the situation changed unexpectedly," he said without elaborating.

"We tried to deal with demonstrators leniently by firing into the air," he said.

Chaturit admitted that the military's public image was badly damaged.

Asked about Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi who disappeared from the public eye after the military crackdown, Chaturit said: "He's still fine."

He said Itsaraphong and Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin have issued statements calling on soldiers to unite and not to be sensitive to public criticism.

Asked if the armed forces can give their word that such a brutal suppression will not happen again in the future, Chaturit said: "I believe such incidents will not recur."

Asked to comment on the public calls for Kaset and Itsaraphong to resign, he appeared nonplussed and refused to comment.

Ninth Division Deputy Commander Col Chalong Chotigakham, at a news conference yesterday afternoon in Kanchanaburi Province, dismissed as rumours reports that a lot of bodies killed in the unrest were buried near Chon Kai Hill behind a territorial defence student camp under the jurisdiction of the division.

Chalong challenged the press to inspect the area where, he claimed, toxic chemicals were dumped.

Eyewitnesses said they saw some bulldozers excavating the soil in the area.

But Chalong said the military had planned to construct lodgings for soldiers early this month even before the massive demonstrations took place.

"That's why we excavated the soil and felled the trees," he said, adding that trees in the area were felled on May 22.

Chalong, however, did not explain why the military wants to build lodgings near a site where poisonous chemicals were dumped.

Hundreds of people were killed or injured from May 18-20 when troops, some from the Ninth Divison, fired indiscriminately into unarmed demonstrators.

Some witnesses said the bodies were then loaded onto military trucks that left for unknown destinations.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Narong Rianthong said they had been informed that 589 people are still missing.

Chalong was asked how many troops from the Ninth Division were sent to quell the unrests.

He said: "Better ask the Capital Security Command about that. I had to do my duty by sending supporting troops to Bangkok."

'Poorly Trained Troops' Blamed

BK2705100892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 27 (AFP)—A senior Thai military official has blamed poorly trained troops who opened fire without orders for the deaths of scores of pro-democracy demonstrators in the capital last week, according to diplomatic sources Wednesday.

The claim, made by army intelligence director Thirawat Patthamonon, is in sharp contrast to comments from the country's Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin and Army chief General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

Both men, who have kept out of the public view since the shootings, have issued statements praising the troops.

Thirawat, in a special briefing for military attaches earlier this week claimed the troops were also frightened and scared, the diplomatic sources said.

The sources added that Thirawat admitted that some of the frontline troops used in the bloody put down were not the best available.

But the intelligence chief insisted that the 40,000 troops used for the operation still showed great restraint. He said that although they fired 150,000 rounds only 40 people had been killed

Last week Supreme Command headquarters confirmed to diplomats that 43 people had died including seven soldiers and police killed by friendly fire.

Quizzed about why tear gas was not used, Thirawat said not enough gas masks were immediately available for the troops.

During the one and a half hour briefing Thirawat was reportedly looking uncomfortable and nervous.

"Thirawat is a good English speaker but he stuttered and stammered his way through his remarks," said one source.

In an Army newsletter published this week Kaset sent a message of thanks to soldiers, saying they had "maintained peace and order in the country with restraint and patience."

Diplomats and political analysts describe Kaset's comments as very worrying.

"This refusal to accept that a horrible blunder was made is obviously of great concern. The military chiefs seem to be blind. They are still convinced they can do no wrong," said one analyst.

Meanwhile there are growing reports of anger in the lower ranks against some senior officers who they claim have destroyed the public image of the Army by ordering troops into the city to quell the demonstrations.

One colonel is reported to have called a Western embassy asking if there was any work available as he wanted to get out of the Army.

"Certainly morale is very low amongst a lot of troops as they realise now what really went on and the feeling of the public against them," said one military source.

Almost a week after the killings the actual death toll still remains unclear. Hospital and other independent sources say the toll was at least more than 100. Nearly 600 people are officially listed as missing and there are fears that many of them may be dead.

The latest government toll says 48 demonstrators have died following the worst violence seen in the capital for almost 20 years.

Compensation for Victims of Unrest Detailed

BK2605011992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 May 92 p 2

[Text] The Interior Ministry has received complaints that 570 people are missing following the crisis from May 17-21, Deputy Interior Permanent Secretary Ari Wong-araya said yesterday.

The ministry will provide 10,000 baht [25 baht = 1 U.S. dollar] for the family of each dead person and another 10,000 baht to cover funeral costs.

Educational funds will be provided monthly to those who have lost the head of the family: 1,000 baht for those at primary level, 1,500 baht for those at secondary school level and 2,500 baht for those at university.

The money will be provided until they complete their education at university level, Mr Ari said.

Injured people hospitalised for more than three days will get 10,000 baht and unemployed people will each be provided with 3,500 baht per month.

Those in jobs will receive 80 per cent of their monthly earning up to 20,000 baht.

Mr Ari said those who are seriously injured and unable to work will receive an initial 50,000 baht with further monthly funding.

Their children will be compensated with amounts equal to those of families which have lost a parent.

Property such as houses and vehicles will be covered by a sum equal to its actual value, he said.

The ministry has set up a special working committee, chaired by Police Department director-general Sawat Amonwiwat, to trace missing people.

Mr Ari said cases of missing people and property loss must be filed by May 31 at a police station and a copy of the police document should be presented to the welfare centre helping those affected.

No reward will be provided to people who find bodies of the missing, but if they do so they should immediately tell the ministry, he said.

Asked if officials could explain rumours that many bodies have been hidden in provinces near Bangkok, Mr Ari said that as the police director-general chairs the special committee, it is the responsibility of the Police, Public Welfare and Local Administration [PWD] departments to clear up the matter.

PWD deputy director-general Pidore Angsusing said the department has so far provided help for 59 victims, amounting to 928,950 baht.

Mr Pidore said the three departments are open to handle enquiries from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on work days.

Constitutional Tribunal Begins Review of Amnesty

BK2705021992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 May 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] The Constitutional Tribunal begins today the highly sensitive task of determining whether a royal decree—described as a "new political time bomb"—issued to absolve those who ordered the Ratchadamnoen massacre is justified.

If the tribunal rules that the royal decree was not warranted by urgency, the promulgation would be considered aborted.

This will pave the way for action to be taken against those involved in last week's violence and harsh military action.

But acting Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan said yesterday that whatever the tribunal's ruling, military or government officials who ordered the bloody suppression of unarmed prodemocracy protesters last week would unlikely be legally punished.

Michai said the crackdown was carried out while the country was under a state of emergency, which he claimed allowed such action.

"Those who carried out their duties allowed under the state of emergency are regarded as performing justified duties. They can't be punished," said Michai.

Michai is a key architect of the controversial decree.

It was hurriedly promulgated over the weekend shortly before Gen Suchinda Khraprayun announced his resignation as prime minister.

The royal decree was announced on Saturday night after having been approved by His Majesty the King.

It reportedly was drafted without full acknowledgment by Cabinet members.

The decree prompted allegations about attempts to save Suchinda and military leaders—particularly Supreme Commander Kaset Rotchananin and Army Commander in Chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi—from possible legal punishment in connection with the Ratchadamnoen killings.

Pro-democracy groups hold ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong, who led national and capital peacekeeping forces respectively, responsibile for the massacre in addition to Suchinda.

Some angry criticism was also directed at First Army Region Commander Chainarong Nunphakdi, who controls army forces in the central region, and Interior Minister Anan Kalintha.

The Confederation for Democracy, which led the mass anti-Suchinda protests that provoked military brutality, yesterday called on Kaset and Itsaraphong to resign.

The confederation's letter said Kaset and Itsaraphong must show responsibility for the massacre and tell the public who ordered the killings.

At a political seminar at Chulalongkon University yesterday, an academic warned that the amnesty issue, if not property handled, could prompt the embatted military to stage another coup.

"There are no good political reasons for a coup at the moment," said Dr Kamon Thongthammachat, "but the military is on the ropes now."

He said those campaigning against the royal decree should be careful not to create a situation that could be used as a pretext for a military takeover.

"Something like criticism of the monarchy could be used as a pretext," he said.

The Constitutional Tribunal was asked by the Opposition to rule on whether the royal decree was really promulgated under an emergency.

If the panel upholds a decree, it will be forwarded to parliament for deliberation.

If Parliament rejects the royal decree, the House will have to be dissolved. But it cannot revoke the amnesty already granted.

Members of the tribunal, by virtue of the office, are:

—House Speakers Athit Urairat
—Supreme Court President Sawat Chotiphanit
—Attorney General Koman Phatharaphirom

Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, an ex-officio member of the tribunal, relinquished his parliamentary posts yesterday.

The other members, chosen by MPs and senators are:

—Banyat Suchiwa
—Mongkhon Paoin
—Suthi Agasaroek
—Lt Gen Saming Tailangkha
—Adm Owat Suthiwathanaruphut
—Bunchana Atthakon

Suthi said on Sunday he doubted the royal decree had been promulgated because of urgency.

"I'm afraid it will become a new big time bomb," he said.

Editorial Condemns Amnesty

BK2505023392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 May 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Amnesty for Generals Cannot Be Justified"]

[Text] Armed Forces commanders who ordered their troops to fire on demonstrators early last week should take some time to drive inconspicuously around the Democracy Monument and see for themselves just how sad, angered and outraged people are about the loss of friends, comrades and relatives—a loss that we all know is beyond compensation.

The gruesome pictures of the victims of the massacre are still exhibited on Ratchadamnoen Avenue and around the Royal Hotel, where the bloodiest street battles in Thailand's history occurred between heavily-armed soldiers and pro-democracy demonstrators. There was no justification whatsoever for the hail of bullets that was fired into the crowd. The order to shoot to kill was simply a direct result of the generals' ambition and greed for power.

But it is looking increasingly likely that those behind the slaughter of the people will go unpunished under an amnesty. By effecting the amnesty just before resigning as prime minister, Suchinda Khraprayun has created an immune clique of criminals and put himself above the law. The amnesty not only makes a mockery of our legal system, but also shows the world that in our country, you can literrally get away with murder.

Suchinda's perfunctory noises of regret are utterly unsatisfactory. Certainly those responsible will never be forgiven in the court of public opinion and will never be morally absolved for what they have done. But the question still remains of how justice will be done and this stain on our national conscience be removed.

The public is already beginning to name names and call those reponsible to account. Certainly Suchinda, Supreme Commander and Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, First Army Region commander Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi and the top bosses of the Interior Ministry must be held chiefly accountable for the loss of lives and incalculable damage to the country. They have no excuse whatsoever.

Suchinda did not resign out of repentance or regret, but because of massive pressure from the public, from within his own government, and from abroad. Signing the amnesty was simply a desperate last-ditch attempt to save his friends—who are actually still hoping to remain unscathed in their powerful positions. The public will not allow it to happen.

These generals must resign their positions immediately, as a public sign of remorse. If they wish to remain angry at being called to account, or feel resentment towards the public in their hearts, that is their personal privilege. They may still truly feel that everything they did was in the interest of the country. Meanwhile, what we should be asking ourselves is how we could possibly salvage this country's image if those who ordered the massacre of their fellow countrymen are allowed to get off scot-free.

The people have been under the powerful dominance of military despots for decades. These people have had their way all along. And what occurred last week was a total lack of gratitude. The generals and their men bit the hands that had fed them. In doing so, they even failed in their basic responsibility of national defence.

Accepting Suchinda's last, cheap gesture is out of the question. Last week was simply too brutal to allow it to be forgotten through a piece of paper of dubious legality. The amnesty should be declared null and void, its retroactive powers down away with by the Constitutional Tribunal, and the culprits brought to justice.

We wonder about the professional courage, as soldiers, of our military leaders. We seriously question whether they could have stood up to the bullets they let loose on the protesters on Ratchadamnoen Avenue last week.

If they do possess uncommon valour, we would like to see it. They should step down and give themselves up to the court process. Not only for the sake of those who died and the image of the country, but also for the dignity of the military; institution—which they are so fond of talking about.

If these military leaders refuse to show responsibility, they can count on a public uproar that could dwarf what was seen last week. The public will not stand for an amnesty put together while hundreds remain missing, many are presumed dead, and justice for such crimes is nowhere in sight.

Acting Prime Minister on Parliament Dissolution

BK2605125092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Speaking to newsmen after the cabinet meeting at noon today, Michai Ruchuphan, the caretaker prime minister, said the lifting of the state of emergency and duties of the caretaker cabinet were discussed at the meeting. He said the caretaker cabinet will perform routine duties but will not consider any policy matter or issue which would bind the next government, with the exception of issues which necessitate action. However, it will probably be prudent to prepare a national budget for the next government, because the budget preparation time is running short.

Asked about the reported possibility of the dissolution of parliament, Michai explained that the caretaker can dissolve parliament, if that is the wish of the political parties or parliament. However, he does not think anyone wants to do it.

Regarding a proposal to remove military leaders for ordering soldiers to shoot the people, Michai said the cabinet has no authority to make such proposal. If an action is to be taken, it will have to follow the procedures of the Defense Ministry.

Coalition Supports Chat Thai Leader for Premier

BK2605010292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 May 92 p 1

[Text] The five coalition partners have expressed support in a letter for Chat Thai leader Sombun Rahong to succeed Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister.

The letter was based on a mutual agreement reached at a meeting of Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action [SAP] , Prachakon Thai, and Ratsadon parties on Sunday, coalition sources said.

The name of ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun along with supporting signatures from MPs of the five parties have already been submitted to Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan for forwarding to House Speaker Athit Urairat, the sources said.

Solidarity MP Ekkapon Rakkwamsuk of Sakon Nakhon said Mr Athit has informed all party leaders to forward their candidates for the prime minister for his consideration within three days.

The names of the candidates must be accompanied by the signatures of MPs in support of the nomination.

Opposition parties may join in an attempt to form the new coalition, he said.

SAP leader Montri Phongphanit denied the five parties had reached an agreement on the formation of a new coalition.

So far no consultations have been held on the subject among the five parties, he said.

It may take two or three days for the parties to work out a deal on the next coalition formula, he said.

He also denied that SAP had been contacted by the New Aspiration Party to join the rest of the Opposition to form the next government.

Mr Montri yesterday defended the five parties over their refusal to share the blame for the killing of the pro-democracy protesters at Ratchadamnoen Avenue.

Suchinda Not To Seek Political Asylum Overseas

BK2505025592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 May 92 p 1

[Text] Top military officers yesterday called on Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to give him moral support after his resignation as prime minister.

An informed military source said the officers included Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

The source said the military wants the Opposition as well as pro-democracy groups to heed His Majesty the King's advice to compromise; otherwise the political crisis will not be solved.

The source confirmed that Gen Suchinda is still in Thailand but might leave the country for a holiday.

He ruled out the possibility that Gen Suchinda would seek political asylum overseas.

Interior Minister To Give Up Politics

BK2605073692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha told reporters after the cabinet meeting at Government House at noon today that the prime minister's resignation also terminates the tenure of the cabinet. The present cabinet is a caretaker cabinet as stipulated by Articles 168 and 169 of the Constitution.

Asked what actions will be taken to salvage the much impaired image of the military, the interior minister said the soldiers have now returned to their barracks.

Touching on the coup rumor, the interior minister said he did not know its source, noting that the people should be rational in judging its reliability. He said he will not return to serve any post in the government and will wash his hands of politics.

Government Spokesman Tenders Resignation

BK2605132692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Witsanu Khruangam, the deputy cabinet secretary, disclosed that he has stopped performing the duties of government spokesman, noting that he submitted a resignation to the cabinet secretary on 21 May. The cabinet secretary, Sophon Suwanruchi, has approved his resignation, which was signed into effect by caretaker Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan today.

Witsanu said he resigned as government spokesman because he was vehemently criticized by the prime minister and the people regarding the recent situation for failing to quickly correct the government's image. He noted that a deputy government spokesman has already been appointed.

Papers Comment on Aftermath of Unrest

BK2505114792

[Editorial Report] The Thai papers THAI RAT, SIAM RAT, and MATICHON carry editorials in their 25 May issues on aftermath of the violent unrest in Bangkok in the past week.

The 400-word MATICHON editorial, on page 3, "Greed Brings Zero Return," says "General Suchinda Khraprayun has been forced by pressure from all sides to accept responsibility for the cruel suppression of protestors. As prime minister, he cannot escape that responsibility." The editorial notes that "it was not enough for Gen. Suchinda to squirm out of the criminal situation, which he and his cohorts created, by simply resigning from the prime minister post. He had to issue a decree giving amnesty to himself and his colleagues for their cruel actions. Still, Suchinda and his colleagues will not be able to escape the repercussions of their actions. It is certain that there will be broad opposition to the decree, and it is doubtful that any member of parliament will support the decree when it goes to the House for approval."

Concluding, the editorial says "the country's crisis was the result of Gen. Suchinda and his colleagues being too ambitious. After they were able to gain control of the three armed forces through members of the same military academy class, they tried to usurp administrative power by ways that were unacceptable to the people. The proverb "greed brings zero return" has been proven true."

The 250-word SIAM RAT editorial, "It Is Time To Quickly Restore the Country," says that though the country appears calm now, people are still frightened and suffer from psychological complexes. It says that "in the current situation, there is nothing better than to restore the damaged installations or replace them with things that are pleasing to the eye. At the same time, the people's morale must also be revived, and it is the duty of the government to encourage cooperation from and among the people. Divisiveness between the military and the people must be avoided at all costs in the future."

The page-3, 400-word THAI RAT editorial, "After Suchinda's Resignation," says that "because the five coalition parties endorsed Gen. Suchinda as prime minister, what they can do now to lessen their sin is to cooperate in amending the Constitution to comply with the people's wishes. To help heal the people's psychological wounds, they must not approve the royal amnesty decree which was tacitly aimed at helping Suchinda's colleagues and relatives."

The editorial concludes that "because the five parties supported Suchinda's appointment as prime minister, they should discard any thought of forming a new government. A new government comprising these parties would not amount to any significant change. The same government, minus Gen. Suchinda, would think along the same lines and could tolerate more murderering of the people. We also feel that the members of parliament belonging to these five parties should show their responsibility by supporting the dissolution of the house in order to let the people exercise their election choices once again."

Navy Seizes Vietnamese Trawler With 15-Man Crew

BK2405152992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1300 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Navy Secretariat has reported the capture of one Vietnamese fishing trawler yesterday by the Royal Thai Navy ship Takbai. The Vietnamese trawler, with its 15-man crew, was seized by the Thai Navy ship of the 2d Fleet after a signal was received from a Thai fishing trawler, which reported being chased by the Vietnamese boat 35 miles northeast of Lo Sin Island inside Thailand's exclusive economic zone. The authorities found on the boat two .50M rifles, one AKA rifle, some ammunition, and magazines. The Vietnamese boat, with its 15-man crew, was towed into Songkhla Naval Station for further action to be taken.

Vietnam

Spokesman on Taiwan Claim on Spratlys, Paracels

BK2305112592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] According to REUTER, on 23 May the Taiwan cabinet passed a law to claim sovereignty over the territorial waters including the Truong Sa [Spratlys] archipelago of Vietnam. In this connection, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman released the following statement:

The two archipelagos of Truong Sa and Hoang Sa [Paracels] are inseparable parts of the territory of Vietnam. The leadership of Vietnam Government has on several occasions confirmed its sovereign rights over these archipelagoes including the statement made on 12 May 1977 which are Vietnam's territorial waters, contiguous zones, exclusive economic zones and continental shelves. Another document is the statement of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Government made on 12 November 1982 on the baseline from which the breadth of Vietnam's territorial waters shall be measured.

Vietnam shared Malaysia's views in building a new Southeast Asia in which all countries in the region followed the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation for mutual benefits. This was stated by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh at the second international seminar on cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN countries open in Kualar Lumpur on 23 May. At this 3-day seminar, participants considered the process of cooperation between Vietnam and six ASEAN member countries, especially in economy. On this occasion, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh held talks with Malaysian leaders on the promotion of bilateral relations.

Report About Residents in Cambodia Rejected

BK2305061292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] In its 19 May dispatch, the French News Agency RFI [RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE] reported that Vietnamese Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh had stated that long-time Vietnam residents in Cambodia may participate in elections in 1993 and that everything had been discussed and resolved during a meeting with his Cambodian counterpart, Norodom Chakkrapong. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to dismiss this news report as totally untrue.

Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh actually stated that at present, a number of long-time Vietnamese residents are living legally in Cambodia and that during a recent visit to Vietnam by Cambodia Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Norodom Chakkrapong, the two sides had exchanged views on how to create favorable conditions for these people to live in Cambodia.

Largest Granite Sale Ever Headed for N. Europe

BK2405151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 24—Some 2,500 tonnes of granite will leave Qui Nhon Port soon on the Indira Gandhi in the direction of Antwerp, Belgium. This will be the biggest granite sale Vietnam has ever made and the first shipment under a contract between Mineral Development Company Limited (Mideco) in Hanoi and Dutch-Viet Trading AEC (DVT) to export stone every month from central Vietnam to Germany and Holland. The total volume engaged on an annual basis is 50,000 tonnes.

Health Minister-Led Delegation Visits France

BK2505150992 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—Prof. Pham Song, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of public health, headed a delegation for a visit to France from May 20-24 at the invitation of the French minister of health and humanitarian action, Bernard Kouchner.

During his stay in France, Pham Song and his French counterpart discussed questions of bilateral cooperation in medicine and pharmacy. The Vietnamese delegation also discussed pharmaceutical technology with French businessmen who are interested in cooperation and investment in this field. The delegation toured a number of companies manufacturing vegetable-based medicines and some medical research institutions.

Malaysian Acting Premier Receives Deputy Premier

BK2605152292 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 26—While in Malaysia for the second international symposium on Vietnam-ASEAN cooperation held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from May 21-23, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen

Khanh, head of the Vietnamese delegation, called on Malaysian acting Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba and had dinner with him. Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh met with the minister of finance; the minister of domestic trade and consumer affairs; and the minister of science, technology and environment. He also visited a new economic zone, the agricultural college and met with a number of Malaysian businessmen.

Acting prime minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba and other Malaysian officials expressed their joy at the rapid development of the friendship and all-sided cooperation between the two countries particularly after the official visit to Malaysia by Chairman Vo Van Kiet in January 1992 and the official visit to Vietnam by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in April 1992. The Malaysian leaders also affirmed that they would continue sharing experience, giving technological assistance and mutual beneficial cooperation with Vietnam.

Chairman Le Quang Dao Receives Cuban Envoy

BK2505150492 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao received on May 23 Cuban Ambassadress Ms. Tania Maceira Delgado who paid him a courtesy visit.

Automobile Joint Venture Turns Out First Vehicle

BK2405074692 Hanoi VNA in English 0555 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 24—The Mekong Corporation automotive factory rolled its first vehicle off the assembly line on Wednesday [20 May], the day of its inauguration.

After a month, 100 other vehicles will be assembled on a complete-knocked-down basis for sale on the domestic market at prices 30 percent lower than imported equivalents, sales officials said.

The joint venture, formed by Vietnam Agricultural Engine and Machinery Corporation (VEAM), the Industrial Department in Ho Chi Minh City, Saeilo Machinery Japan Inc., and Sae Young International Ic., will be able to make 5,000 cars a year. After the first plant at Binh Chanh District in Ho Chi Minh City, it will set up another plant in Hanoi.

Mekong Corporation is not the only joint venture of the kind in Vietnam. Three others have been entered into with France's Citroen, Columbian Motors Co. of the Philippines, and Daewoo of South Korea. The first cars were assembled in Hanoi in December last year in cooperation with Citroen.

Foreign Companies Invest in Minh Hai Province

BK2305140092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] From the beginning of this year, many foreign businesses have come to Minh Hai to investigate possibilities for investment in the province's agro-forestry industry. Minh Hai has created favorable conditions for investors and customers to study and plan their cooperative projects. A French company has invested in a three-million-dollar project to build a condensed coconut milk processing plant with a yearly capacity of 5,000 tonnes. An Italian company has set up a joint venture with a local export company to exploit and process sea products in Ganh Hao. A Thai company is cooperating with its Vietnamese counterpart in sea food production, with initial investment capital of $905,000.

Minh Hai Province is also planning to call on a bidder to upgrade a shrimp processing factory and cooperate in shrimp spawning in U Minh Forest.

Chairman Inspects North-South Electric Network

BK2205150392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 May 92

[Station correspondent Dinh Khai's report on chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet's inspection tour of the North-South 500 kilovolt electric network—portions recorded]

[Summary] In late April, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet inspected the installation of electric towers along the North-South 500 kilovolt electric network portions in Quang Nam-Danang and Dac Lac Provinces and Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City. He was accompanied by Energy Minister Vu Ngoc Hai.

In Danang, the chairman inspected position No. 415 where workers of the second production group of 3d Electricity Installation Company, "were building the base of a tower at the most difficult portion of the North-South network which runs through complex terrain features of steep mountainous slopes and deep valleys such as Deo Ngang pass in Ha Tinh province, Ly Hoa pass in Quang Binh Province, and Quoc Phuong, Phu Gia and Hai Van passes in Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Nam-Danang Provinces and the mountainous areas of Gia Lai and Kontum Provinces."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet carefully inspected the construction of the 415 tower bases and repeatedly urged workers and cadres to pay most attention to the requirements of quality, progress and safety.

He told Tran Viet Ngai, director of the 3d Installation company: "The party, the National Assembly and our scientific organizations have reminded us that the quality of construction is the first requirement."

In Dac Lac Province, Chairman Vo Van Kiet inspected the building of No. 4 tower base by the 4th Electric

Installation Company. Director Pham Van Chau of the company reported to the chairman on the construction progress and the problem of water supply. "He carefully checked the quality of raw materials and reminded the cadres and workers of the absolute need to fulfill this requirement of quality." He praised the company for its resolution to meet this demand.

On the 17th anniversary of the total liberation of the South, Chairman Vo Van Kiet came to Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City to inspect the installation of 16F, 17F and 18F electric towers by the 2d Electric Installation Company.

"The 2d company installed the last 310-KM long portion of the network from Buon Methuot to Phu Lam of Ho Chi Minh City. Although this portion does not run through forests like the other portions, it runs through many densely populated areas and industrial complexes, thus with no less difficulties to be overcome." Director Ho Anh Tu of the 2d company reported to the chairman on the determination and efforts of his cadres and workers since the project had started to ensure completion of the project on schedule, with good quality and in an economical and safe manner.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet talked with 2d unit leader Le Van Hien and Energy Minister Vu Ngoc Hai.

[Begin recording] [Kiet] "Is the installation difficult as compared with the work you comrades did before?

[Unidentified voice] "Yes, it is difficult, because the towers are higher. However, since the Council of Ministers has so decided, we have strived our utmost to do it.

[Kiet] "How about standards, time, and technical requirements? Can you fulfill them?

[Unidentified voice] "With adequate funds allocated, we certainly can fulfill them.

[Kiet] "Then, are you sure that you can meet the requirements for quality, work progress, and thrift?

[Unidentified voice] "Upon inspection, we can affirm that good quality of work and timeliness have been ensured." [end recording]

Also on this occasion, Chairman Vo Van Kiet went to the Ry Ninh 1 hydroelectric construction project site. Over the past years, good progress has been made to solve the shortages of electricity for the central and highland regions. "Here, the chairman urged the energy ministry to perfect the economic and technical project for the state review board to see and submit it to the Council of Ministers for consideration and decision in June. The Building and Water Conservancy Ministries should assign more cadres, workers, and building machines to the unit so that preparations for construction can be completed and work begin immediately when conditions permit. He also asked the state planning commission to consider the energy ministry's proposal for supplemental 1992 funds and start the preparations for construction as planned. Along with this issue, Chairman Vo Van Kiet repeatedly stressed the need to ensure the construction progress of Ry Ninh 1 project, aiming to begin the generation of electricity in early 1993."

Continues North-South Inspections

BK2305125392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 May 92

[Station correspondent Dinh Khai's report on Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet's recent inspection of the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline segments in Ha Tinh and Nghe An on May 17—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Following his inspection tour of the installment of the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline segments in Danang, Dac Lac, and Ho Chi Minh City, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet recently went on another inspection tour of the powerlines in Ha Tinh and Nghe An. He was accompanied by Minister of Energy Vu Ngoc Hai."

On the morning of 17 May, Chairman Vo Van Kiet arrived at Cam Son village of Cam Xuyen District, Ha Tinh Province, to inspect the construction of a base of Electric Tower No.49. He was welcomed by workers of the 1st Electricity Installment Group under the 3d Electricity Installment Group. Nguyen Van Xuan and Giang Van Kien, respectively team leader and group leader, briefed the chairman on what has been done since the start of the project's construction.

"The 3d Electricity Installation Company is one of the four units of the Ministry of Energy engaged in the installment of the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline. The company is in charge of a 150-km long line extending from Ha Tinh to Cong Tum. This portion runs through the most complex terrain composed mainly of virgin jungle, steep mountain slopes, and deep valleys such Deo Ngang Pass in Ha Ninh Province, Ly Hoa Pass of Quang Binh Province, Phuoc Tuong, Phu Gia, and Hai Van Passes of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam-Danang Provinces, and the rolling mountain ranges of Gia Lai and Cong Tum Provinces."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet carefully checked various activities with specific attention on the quality of materials and technical programs.

"Addressing cadres and workers at the construction site, the chairman said: You, comrades, should always remember that the party, state, and various scientific organizations have urged us to pay attention to the quality of this construction project. Every cadre and worker involved in the installation of the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline should regard efforts to ensure the quality for this project as his responsibility and glorious obligations toward the party, state, and people."

When presenting gifts to the workers, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] "I cannot say in advance whether this gift is the first or the last for you. I hope that you, comrades, will meet all the technical standards set by the government, the Ministry [of Energy] and other responsible comrades most satisfactorily and adequately." [end recording]

On behalf of the workers of the 1st Electricity Installation Group, Giang Van Kien, the group leader, made the following pledge:

[Begin Giang Van Kien recording] On behalf of the workers of the 1st Electricity Installation Group, I pledge to fulfill the tasks assigned in the installation of the 500-kilovolt powerline in a most satisfactory manner. [end recording]

Later, Chairman Vo Van Kiet left Ha Tinh for Nghe An to inspect the north-south powerline at position 132 in Nam Loc village of Nam Dan distict. The construction of this position is under the responsibility of an electromechanical enterprise of the 1st Electricity Installation Corporation. At this position, the chairman was welcomed by hundreds of workers and local people.

Comrade Nguyen Tien Xuan, director of the 1st Electricity Installation Corporation, briefed the chairman on what has been done since the project construction started.

"The 1st Electricity Installation Corporation is responsible for the segment from Hoa Binh to Vinh of Nghe An Province under the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline. This portion also runs through many complex terrain such as virgin jungles, high mountains, and marshes."

After having a close look at various jobs at the construction site, "Chairman Vo Van Kiet informally chatted with workers of the electro-mechanical enterprise. He urged them to pay constant attention to ensuring the quality of their work as they build this huge project for the nation."

Comrade Bui Dinh Thang, director of the Electromechanical Enterprise, made the following pledge with the chairman of the Council of Ministers:

[Begin Bui Dinh Thang recording] On behalf of the Electromechanical Enterprise in particular and the 1st Electricity Installation Corporation in general, I pledge to unfailingly and satisfactorily fulfill all the tasks assigned in terms of technical quality, time schedule, and labor safety. [end recording]

After inspecting the construction of a base of Electric Tower No.132, Chairman Vo Van Kiet met hundreds of peasants of Nam Loc village who gathered at the construction site to welcome him. Amid a friendly and open-minded atmosphere, the comrade addressed the crowd:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] "The installation of the national powerline that runs through your village is made possible thanks to your assistance. On behalf of the government, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of you. The powerline will surely bring prosperity to you and your neighborhood. I wish you [illegible]osperity, good health, and a plentiful life." [end recording]

While in Nghe An Province, Chairman Vo Van Kiet visited the Ho Chi Minh memorial complex in Kim Lien to pay respect to President Ho on his 102d birth anniversary. In the visitors' book he wrote: "At present, together with the building of various major national projects, we are concentrating on building the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline to channel electricity to the south and regulate power supply nationwide. It is an honor that the powerline runs through Uncle Ho's native place. This can be likened to the past mission of crossing the Truong Son mountain range to build and defend the Vietnamese fatherland in accordance with Uncle Ho's testament. We are trying to do our utmost to build a prosperous people and a powerful nation."

Visits Nghe An Monument, Ha Tinh

BK2505141392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Vietnam Radio station correspondent reported from Nghe An that on the morning of 18 May, on the 102d birthday of President Ho Chi Minh, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers paid a tribute to the Ho Chi Minh Monument in his home town in Nam Dan District of Nghe An. Accompanying the chairman were Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen, former member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and former vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; many leaders of ministries and central agencies; Comrade Nguyen Ba, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Nghe An Party Committee; and Comrade Hoang Xuan Tuy, chairman of the people's committee.

At Kim Lien, Director Nguyen Minh Chau and staff of the monument were solemnly received by and guided the chairman. Under the statue of Uncle Ho, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his entourage lighted incense sticks and offered flowers to commemorate Uncle Ho. Then Comrade Vo Van Kiet and Dong Sy Nguyen wrote in the memory book of the monument as follows:

Today, Nguyen and I visited your home village to acknowledge to you our unlimited respect and appreciation. At present, together with building major construction projects in the country, we are concentrating on the construction of the 500-KV North-South Electricity Transmission Line to transmit electricity to the south and disperse electricity throughout the country. The line has the honor of passing through your home town and is another crossover of the Truong Son mountain chain in undertaking the construction and protection of the Vietnamese fatherland. Following your testament, we are doing our best to make the people rich and the country strong.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen planted souvenir trees in the garden of the monument.

Also on this occasion, the chairman inspected the construction of the electricity transmission line. In Ha Tinh, he went to the construction site of No. 49 Electricity Post Foundation which has been built by No. 3 Electricity Construction Company in Cam Son village of Cam Xuyen District. In Nghe An, the chairman inspected the construction of No. 132 Post Foundation built by No. 1 Electricity Construction Company in Nam Loc village of Nam Dan District.

At these places, after carefully inspecting the construction, Chairman Vo Van Kiet reminded cadres and workers of construction companies to pay particular attention to the quality of their work as well as ensure safety, thrift, and timeliness. He stressed that every cadre and worker participating in the construction must consider the quality of the project as their responsibility and glorious duty to the party, state, and people.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Outgoing Albanian Envoy

BK2605151492 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 26—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here today Albanian Ambassador to Vietnam Gezim Dhrima who paid him a farewell visit before ending his term of office in Vietnam. Ambassador Gezim Dhrima informed the Vietnamese chairman of the latest developments in Albania. He expressed his satisfaction at the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the renovation process as well as his belief that in the new situation, the traditional friendship and relations between Vietnam and Albania would continue to be gained and developed in various fields.

For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet highly appreciated Ambassador G. Dhrima's contributions to strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries during his term of office here. He reaffirmed that Vietnam would try its best to further promote the traditional relations between the two countries on the basis of equality, mutual benifits and resprects, as aspired by the two peoples.

Do Muoi Attends Ho Chi Minh Revolutionary Play

BK2505093992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] On the evening of 18 May, the Stage Institute and Ho Chi Minh Museum jointly staged a play on esteemed Uncle Ho to commemorate his 102d birthday, with the participation of stage performers who have acted as Uncle Ho in varioys plays since 1976.

Attending were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; and many other comrades representing various organs at the central level and in Hanoi, and artists belonging to certain art units and cultural houses at the central level and in Hanoi.

Taking part in the play were oustanding artist Si Hung—the first person to act as Uncle Ho in a modern play under the title "The Number-One Citizen" in 1976—and other stage performers such as Tieu Lan, Hai Ty, Khoi Nguyen, and Bach Dien. This was a play about the first of Uncle Ho's return to his homeland to lead the revolution and form the liberation propaganda team.

Meets Constituents at Hai Ba Trung

BK2505084292 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, yesterday met with his constituents at Pham Dinh Ho ward, Hai Ba Trung precinct. The meeting was arranged by the local committee of the fatherland front to select six candidates to the coming National Assembly election (9th legislature) as stipulated in articles 29 and 36 of the electoral law. Speaking to his constituents, Do Muoi said:

"The next National Assembly will have less deputies but it needs a higher quality and greater efficiency. The deputies must really represent the people's aspiration and work with high devotion to execute the two major tasks, viz. to build and defend the socialist homeland."

On the current campaign against negativism, Do Muoi said: "Together with enforcing strong and effective measures to fight negativsm in all forms the party and state must pay greater attention to boosting production, generating more jobs to stabilize and improve the working and living conditions. At the same time, we have to broaden goods circulation, stabilise the market and prices, improve the wage system, improve the managerial mechanism, and increase the awareness of law abiding among the population. That's the best way to overcome negativism. However, negative practices are a social phenomenon which cannot be done away overnight or thoroughly. Therefore, the party, state, and mass organisations must persistently mobilize the entire people to actively take part in this fight." The voters present unanimously nominated by secret ballots Do Muoi to the election for the National Assembly to be held nationwide on July 19, 1992.

Council of Ministers Bans Raw Timber Exports

BK2305171092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Implementing Directive 92 of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, on 18 May the Forestry Ministry, the State Planning Commission, and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism jointly issued Circular No. 09 stipulating the types of timber and rattan products that may be exported.

The circular stipulates that henceforth only finished wood and forest products can be exported. The raw materials used include those natural materials from planted forests as indicated in the approved plans. Exports will be accounted for in accordance with the designations of each stipulated product in terms of amounts, quality, type of timber, packing procedures, and sketches of products attached thereto.

The number of exports is grouped into four categories, with 34 types of products whose designs are determined depending on each different category, including the norms for exporting finely processed timber and rattan products.

Circulation of New Bank Notes Explained

BK2305122792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 5 May 92

[NHAN DAN 5 May article by Deputy Director of Vietnam State Bank Do Que Luong: "Why Have Two New Bank Notes Been Circulated?"]

[Summary] The Council of Ministers chairman authorized the circulation of two new bank notes: The 10,000-dong and 100-dong notes effective 5 May.

The bank notes in circulation now were issued in September 1985. The 5,000-Dong notes were issued in August 1988. "The current notes are causing many difficulties to the circulation and trade of goods, due to the price increases over the past few years. This has been experienced by people, agencies, units and economic organizations, especially when they pay for high value commodities, as the value of our currency is too low. The banks themselves have also encountered difficulties in counting, transporting and preserving bank notes while printing costs are high."

The highest denomination of our current 5,000-dong note can buy only 2 kg. of rice, 300 gms of meat and not even a meter of fabric. In comparison, U.S. $100 can buy 500 kg of rice. The U.S. also has $500, $1,000 and $5,000 denominations. Many Southeast Asian countries also circulate 5,000, 10,000, 50,000 and 100,000 notes.

"The purpose of gradually introducing high denomination bank notes into circulation is to overcome these difficulties. It is also meant to rationally replace the notes in circulation by keeping up with price increases; saving on printing, packing and preservation costs; and creating favorable conditions for consumers in trade and maintenance activities."

As for the issuance of small denominations 100 and 50 notes, it is aimed at retrieving and replacing old and ragged notes.

Although the circulation of high denomination notes will not drastically affect the people's livelihood, profiteers might "take advantage of the occasion to spread disturbing rumors in order to devalue our currency and push up prices for more profits, causing difficulties to market and socioeconomic management."

The state bank requests all agencies, units, economic organizations and the people to use the new bank notes as they would ordinarily, to help create favorable conditions for their circulation in trade and payment operations, and report to responsible authorities all attempts to distort and disturb the situation, so that timely action can be taken.

Correction: Decision on Assembly Election, Part 2

BK2705014492

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "State Council Decision on Assembly Elections, Part 2," published in the 19 May Southeast Asia DAILY REPORT, page 57:

Page 58, column 2, paragraph No. 43, first sentence make read ...and seven deputies for Dong Thap Province. Unit one comprising... (supplying missing province name)

Australia

Canberra Defers Ministerial Contacts With Bangkok

BK2705110192 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Australia says there is compelling evidence that much of the death toll in the Bangkok demonstrations was the result of deliberate actions by senior Thai generals, and Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said the large proportion, if not all, of 589 people listed as missing are dead. Graham Dobell reports from Canberra on the foreign minister's comments in the Senate.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] Senator Evans said the political situation in Thailand was still fluid as political parties remained deadlocked over the formation of a new government. The foreign minister said judgments, now being made in Bangkok about the handling of last week's violence, were of crucial significance to the whole political future of Thailand. And Senator Evans made this comment about the attack on demonstrators by the Thai military.

[Evans] I say now for the record, that I was absolutely appalled by the violence. I am further appalled by the fact that there is now compelling evidence that a great deal of the death toll was a result of deliberate actions by a number of senior Thai generals. The size of the death toll is still unclear. Latest figures suggest that as many as 589 are people missing on current compilations and it does seem reasonable, unhappily, to assume that a very large proportion of those, if not all, are in fact dead. We would hope and expect that there'd be a satisfactory form of accounting for the events which took place. And I already (?have put) strong pressures within Thailand itself to that end.

[Dobell] The foreign minister said Australia was hopeful about the prospects for peaceful solution. The resignation of the non-elected Prime Minister General Suchinda was obviously a positive step in resolving the crisis and it could be a watershed in the evolution of the Thai democratic process. For the moment he said Australia would maintain its position of having no formal ministerial or defense contacts with Thailand.

[Evans] Our future responses [words indistinct] will be informed by events in the coming days which we will be following very closely. We have conducted an initial review, bilateral relations will continue, to defer for the time being ministerial and senior military contacts. We are keeping a full range of official contacts with Thailand until details of the [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Canberra Weighs Sanctions Against Burma

BK2705121092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Canberra, May 27 (AFP)—The Australian Government may be close to imposing economic sanctions against Burma, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told parliament here Wednesday.

He conceded that Burma "may be entering into a new era", but said positive developments there were "few and far between, insubstantial and incomplete."

Evans has so far resisted calls to impose economic sanctions on the military regime in Burma, but said:

"We are getting very close to the point at which we are going to have to make a decision as to whether to go further down that particular path."

He said he was encouraged by the release of 110 political prisoners, but another 2,000 were awaiting freedom.

There were no indications of democratic reforms being implemented in the country while a planned mass repatriation of some 200,000 Burmese Moslem refugees from camps in Bangladesh was yet to begin, he said.

Australia will help maintain international pressure on Burma but will not yet commit itself to a timetable of measures, Evans said.

Fiji

Key Economic Data Reported Prior to Election

BK2705031092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0141 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Suva, May 27 (AFP)—Key data reflecting the state of the Fijian economy as the country votes to elect its first government since the 1987 military coup.

Gross domestic product: declined by 0.4 per cent in 1991 but average growth was four percent since 1988, with 12 percent growth in 1989.

Currency: Fiji dollar devalued 17.25 per cent and 15.25 percent in 1987 and pegged at one Fiji dollar for 68 U.S. cents.

Balance of trade: deficit of 197 million dollars (136 million U.S.), with exports of 631 million dollars (435 million U.S.) and imports of 828 million dollars (571 million U.S.).

Balance of payments: deficit of 50 million dollars (35 million U.S.) forecast for 1992, compared with a deficit of 29 million dollar (19 million U.S.) in 1991.

Unemployment: down from 10 percent in 1987 to 5.7 percent in 1991, with paid employment at a new high of 93,000.

Inflation: seven percent in 1991 compared with 14 percent in 1987, with a rate of eight percent expected on the introduction of a value added tax on July 1.

Tourism: arrivals fell to 264,000 in 1991 from an all-time high of 278,000 in 1990 and accounted for 13 percent of GDP and 25 percent of foreign exchange earnings, bringing in 332 million dollars (229 million U.S.) in 1991.

Trade: encouragement of trade with Southeast Asia, away from traditional markets of Australia and New Zealand, with significant expansion in garment exports to the United States and Europe.

Sugar: accounts for 47 percent of agricultural employment, with output down from a record 502,000 tonnes in 1986 to 389,000 tonnes in 1991, partly due to harvest boycotts in protest against political administration.

National budget for 1992: expenditure estimated at 686.6 million dollars (473 million U.S.) against revenue at 612 million dollars (422 million), yielding a gross deficit of 74.9 million dollars (52 million U.S.).

Chamber of Commerce Issues Warning on Economy

BK2705024092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0139 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Suva, May 27 (AFP)—Fiji can expect a repeat of the economic disaster of 1987 if the post-coup reforms of the outgoing interim administration are tampered with, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce (FCC) warned this week.

The warning came as polling continued in the country's first elections in five years.

The chamber said Fiji's remarkable economic performance in the last three years had set the country on a path of sustained growth and more equitable national development.

"If there was a sudden change in policies of this (interim) government, it will be seen as detrimental to potential and existing investors," said FCC secretary Ray Dunstan.

Dunstan said in an interview that employers would be telling the new government, expected to be formed next week, "not to rescind policies like tax-free zone schemes, deregulation and labour market reforms."

"Tax-free incentives and deregulation, which replaced the old unworkable import-substitution type policies, have brought a substantial increase in the economy," Dunstan said.

"After the 1987 coups, there was serious downturn and the country was on the verge of bankruptcy, but all that has changed," he said.

The FCC supports labour market reforms now in place, which it says will lessen industrial disputes in key sectors.

The prime minister of the interim government, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who retires from politics at the conclusion of the elections, delivered at the weekend a report to President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau entitled: "Mission Complete."

Mara said in his report to Ganilau that wide-ranging economic reform had been necessary when he took over the reins of government from the military in December, 1987, to avoid an "irreversible decline."

"With the economy fast shrinking, we had to move quickly to identify the best ways of attaining and sustaining growth and increasing employment," Mara said in his report.

He added that if the economic tailspin continued, the suffering of the people could have been a "potential source of civil unrest and upheaval."

Mara's deputy, Josevata Kamikamica, was given the task of dismantling protectionist tariffs and removing subsidies in agriculture.

Kamikamica is banking on the success of his economic reforms as he vies with coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka and a number of other Fijian leaders for selection by the president as prime minister next week.

But a contender for a coalition partnership with Rabuka, Sakeasi Butadroka's Fijian Nationalist United Front (FNUP), wants an overhaul of economic policy, granting more economic power to indigenous Fijians through a preferential system of loans and licenses.

Kamikamica has the support of Fiji's ethnic Indians, who are about demographically equal with the indigenous Fijians and, though with constitutionally restricted political power, are the driving commercial force in the islands.

Kamikamica's 1988 scheme for tax-free investment zones, offering 13-year tax holidays to investors, was popular, attracting nearly 60 foreign firms and a similar number of local companies.

Mara estimates that up to 11,000 jobs were created by the scheme by last year, with some 200 million Fijian dollars (138 million U.S.) worth of exports generated.

"It was one of the most dramatic structural changes in the Fiji economy," Mara said.

Fiji has moved closer to Southeast Asia, with Malaysia opening air and shipping links next month.

Tourism, a key industry in this South Pacific island state, has bounced back after the 1987 post-coup decline to peak at 278,000 arrivals in 1990, and was worth 332 million Fiji dollars (229 million U.S.) in 1991.

Several large tourist projects are being constructed in anticipation of a huge jump in visitor arrivals by 1995.

"It demonstrates that even when there are political uncertainties, financiers and large investors will respond if they are convinced about long-term prospects," Mara said.

Sugar, though hit by cane grower strikes three times since the coup, remains Fiji's dominant industry, while garments, fish and timber exports have risen markedly.

Rabuka Promises Multiracial Government

BK2405033092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0319 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpts] Suva, May 24 (AFP)—Coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka promised a multiracial government at the start of Fiji's first elections since he ousted Timoci Bavadra's elected administration five years ago. [passage omitted]

He wants the Indians, who are said to be about equal to the Fijians in numbers, to "let bygones be bygones."

"The important thing is we have shaken everybody to realise our stand and created an awareness in the indigenous people and other races," he said.

A new Constitution, promulgated in 1990, gives Fijians 37 seats in the 70-seat House of Representatives. Indians have 27, other races five and the semi-autonomous island of Rotuma one.

Rabuka was among the first to vote in the capital Suva when polls opened at 600 polling stations on Saturday.

Posters bearing a picture of the late Bavadra—he died of cancer in early 1990—have been struck around the main island of Viti Levu by National Federation Party (NFP) supporters. [passage omitted]

Recent opinion polls give Rabuka the support of 63 percent of indigenous Fijians, while only 25 percent backed Kamikamica and eight percent for one of Fiji's traditional chiefs, Ratu William Toganivalu.

Rabuka told reporters on Saturday there was renewed support for his candidacy, and chiefs from the Kadavu province threw their supporty behind him.

"We believe that since he started all this in 1987, he should finish it and the only proper way to complete it is to become prime minister," said former chief magistrate, Apaitia (S?ru), who was elected unopposed.

Analysts said a Rabuka government could be expected to shift Fiji's economic and diplomatic focus away from traditional trading partners and aid donors Australia, New Zealand and former colonial ruler Britain, towards South-East Asia, in particular China, Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as France.

Rabuka quit his army command as a major general after 22 years in arms to join a civilian interim administration as home affairs minister and deputy prime minister.

He relinquished those positions three months later to lead the Fijian People's Party (FPP), which has full backing from Fiji's traditional authority the Great Council of Chiefs.

A Methodist lay preacher and a former rugby international, Rabuka, 43, is extremely sensitive to indigenous Fijian issues—political control, land and religion.

He demanded that Fiji observe the Sunday sabbath as a day of rest as a condition to his military surrendering power to Mara's civilian regime.

New Zealand

McKinnon, Thai Minister Discuss Citizen's Death

BK2705022892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0124 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Wellington, May 27 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Wednesday he had spoken by telephone with Thai Foreign Minister Phongphon Adireksan in an attempt to "clear the air" between the two countries.

Bilateral relations have been strained in recent weeks after New Zealand national Ian Neumegen was killed in the democracy riots in Bangkok, and another seriously wounded.

McKinnon said he was encouraged by the phone call.

"This call was a good opportunity to clear the air," he said in a statement. "New Zealand's relations with Thailand have been under strain in the last week or so.

"I wanted to ensure that we continue to keep the lines open at the political level."

McKinnon said he was encouraged by his Thai counterpart's comments on political developments.

"Clearly the Thai people want a democratic government and justice to be done after last week's demonstrations," he said.

New Zealand demanded a second autopsy on Neumegen's body following reports he had been executed. The autopsy results, released Tuesday, showed he had probably died accidentally.

Phongphon told McKinnon he would attend Neumegen's funeral rites in Bangkok later Wednesday, which are being conducted by the supreme patriach—the head of Buddhism in Thailand—and with the sponsorship of King Phumiphon Adunyadet.